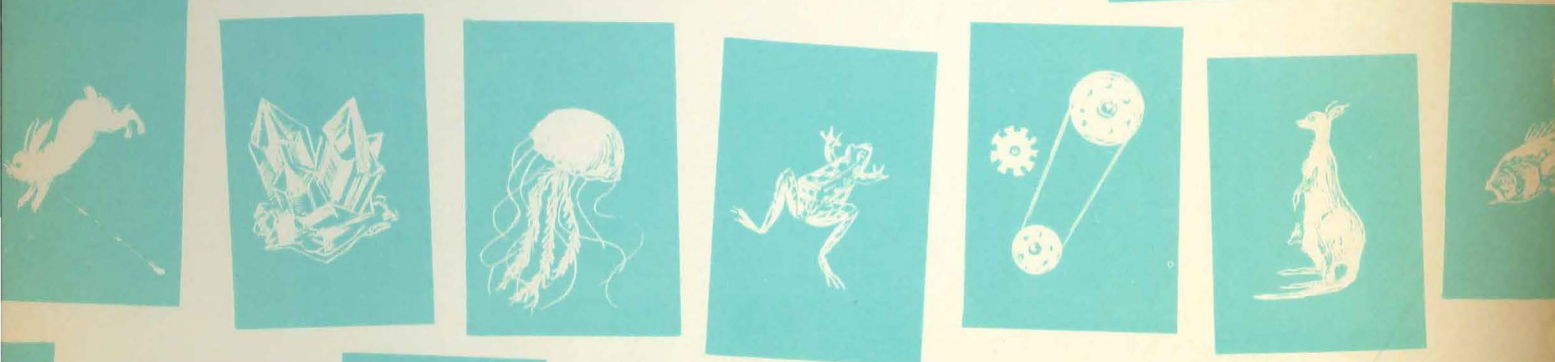
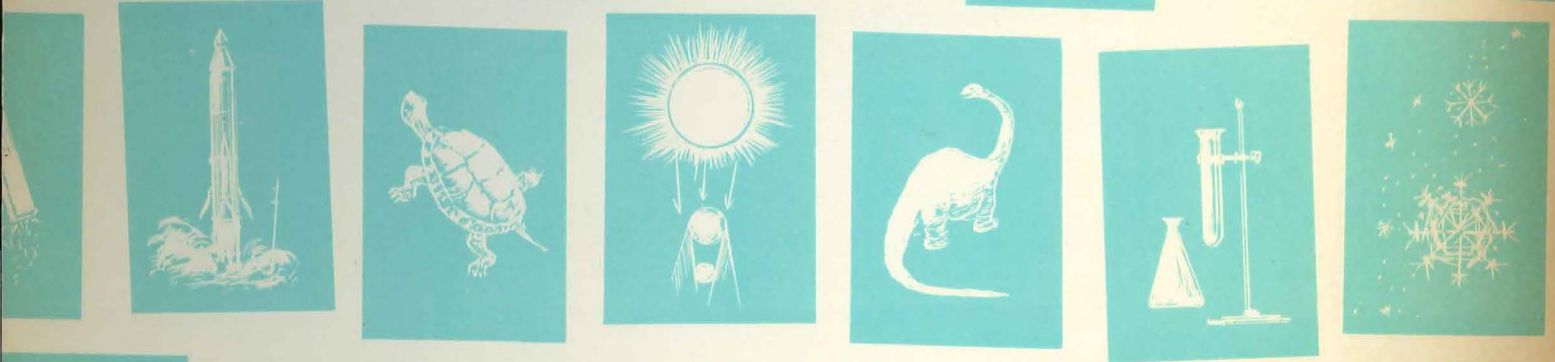
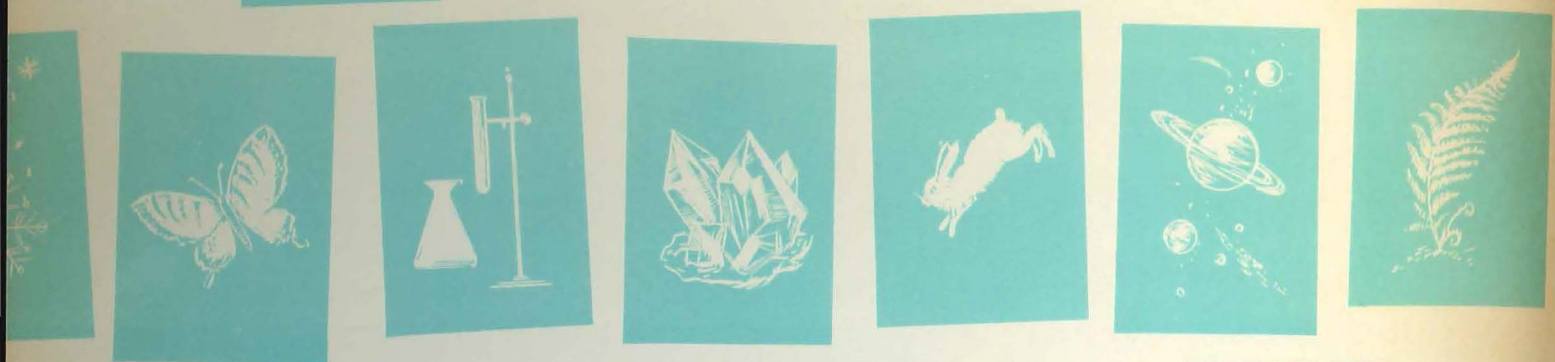


The
**HOW
AND
WHY**
Wonder Book of

5050

THE OLD TESTAMENT





THE HOW AND WHY WONDER BOOK OF

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Written by DR. GILBERT KLAPERMAN
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Introduction

No other book has had such an important world-wide influence as the Bible. It has been translated into over a thousand languages and dialects, and its popularity as a great and important book has continued for over 2,000 years. Those who already know the Bible will find in this *How and Why Wonder Book of the Old Testament* a source of enrichment for greater understanding. Others will find it a happy introduction to the "Book of Books."

The Bible is a collection of ethical and moral teachings including the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule. It is a treasure house of wisdom and a great teacher of human values. The Bible is also a great piece of literature with beauty and poetry in it. Throughout its pages are stories of spiritual leaders, prophets and priests, men and women whose deeds, as they discovered their relationship to God and other men, have become almost legendary.

Thanks to the findings of modern archaeologists, many of the Biblical narratives can be better understood now than ever before. Recent discoveries not only confirm many of the stories, but also throw light on the historical situations out of which the Old Testament grew. Many of the events appear to have been recorded with startling accuracy.

This *How and Why Wonder Book of the Old Testament* gives a sample of the people, the history, the moral principles and the literature of the Bible. Hopefully, reading this book will stimulate many to explore further the "Book of Books" itself.

Paul E. Blackwood

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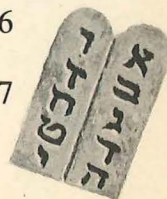
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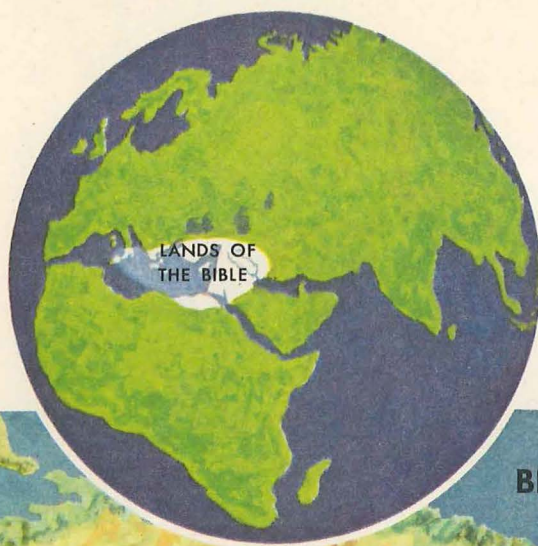
Fourth Printing

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The people told about in the Bible lived in countries which occupy only a very tiny area of the globe.



The Biblical lands are found between what is today the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. Archaeological excavations in these regions have unearthed pictures on pottery, reliefs, and artifacts that give us an idea of the life of the Biblical people.





The painting above, found on a tomb of an Egyptian Pharaoh, dates from about 1300 B.C. It shows Egyptians, Canaanites, Nubians and Lydians, just as the Bible describes the sons of Ham. The land of Canaan later became the land of Israel.



At right, reconstruction of the Ziggurat (pyramid temple-tower) of Ur in Babylonia. The Biblical Tower of Babel was most likely a Ziggurat.

What is the Bible?

The Bible refers to the Holy Scriptures of the Jews and Christians. The Bible was originally written in Asia Minor where Judaism and Christianity were born. But as these two religions spread to Europe and later to America, the influence of the Bible became most important in what is called the Western World. Today its influence

Where did the Bible originate?

is felt in Asia, Australia, Africa and South America as well. Although Judaism and Christianity represent much less than half of the world's population, the Bible is owned and read by more people and translated into more languages than any other book ever known to man. The Bible contains the oldest written body of literature of its size and kind possessed by man.



GOLDEN RAM FOUND
IN RUINS OF UR

We are all curious about our history and our origins. We like to know who our ancestors were and how they came into being. The Bible tells the story of how the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were created. Then the Bible traces the early generations of man as they descended from Adam and Eve. In this way the Bible gives us a view of how life first began and how people lived thousands of years ago.

We also want to know how the great ideas and principles by which man lives were developed. The Bible is a great collection of ethical and moral teachings. It tells us what we can do to bring happiness to ourselves and to our loved ones. It tells us how to live peacefully with our neighbors. It tells us the relationships that nations must have with each other in order to find peace and prosperity for all mankind. The Bible is a treasure house of great wisdom and the profoundest teacher of human values.

The Scriptures also bring us a parade of noble heroes, devoted spiritual leaders, prophets and priests, warriors and psalmists, men and women whose deeds have been inscribed forever in our hearts and minds. Their achievements are examples for us to follow.

But above all, the Bible is held dear and holy because those who believe in it accept it as the word of God. They believe that the words of the great spiritual figures recorded in the Bible and the noble

**What is written
in the Bible?**

ideas found in its passages are the sentiments of God Himself. Therefore, by studying the Bible, we find the meaning of God's existence, and by reading its pages, we hear His voice and learn His will.

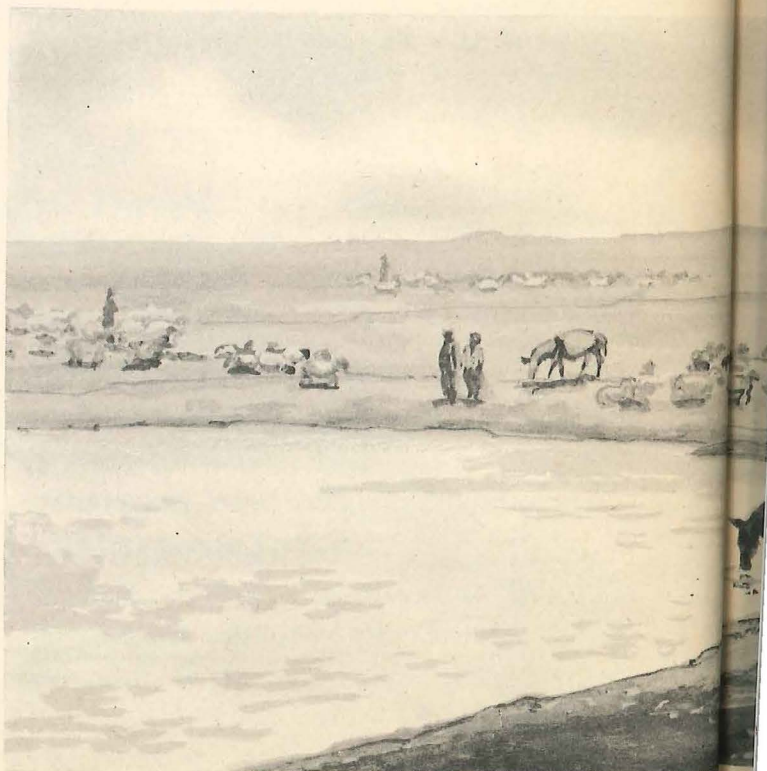
Because the Bible is believed to be the word of God, it is considered holy and, therefore, called the Holy

**Why is the Bible
called the
Book of Books?**

Scriptures or Sacred Scriptures. It is also known as the *Book of Books*, meaning that it is the most important of all books. The Bible's clear, classic prose and moving poetry also make it a foremost literary achievement.

We must pause now to explain one more name which is most often connected with the Bible, and that is the word *testament*. We know that

**What is the
meaning of the
word Testament?**



there is an Old Testament and a New Testament. How are they connected with the Bible?

The word testament in Greek has two meanings. One meaning is "covenant" or "agreement." The other means "will," in the sense that a person makes a will telling how to deal with, or dispose of, his possessions. Since religious people believe that the Bible represents an agreement between God and man, or a statement of God's will telling how He wants man to use the gifts that He gave him, the Bible became known as the Testament.

When Christianity developed, it brought with it a new body of holy writings. In order to differentiate between the older writings which represented Judaism and the later writings which represented Christianity, the terms Old Testament and New Testament came into use. The Jewish people do not generally accept the term Old Testament as a name for their Bible. They believe

there is only one Bible, the one which existed before Christianity.

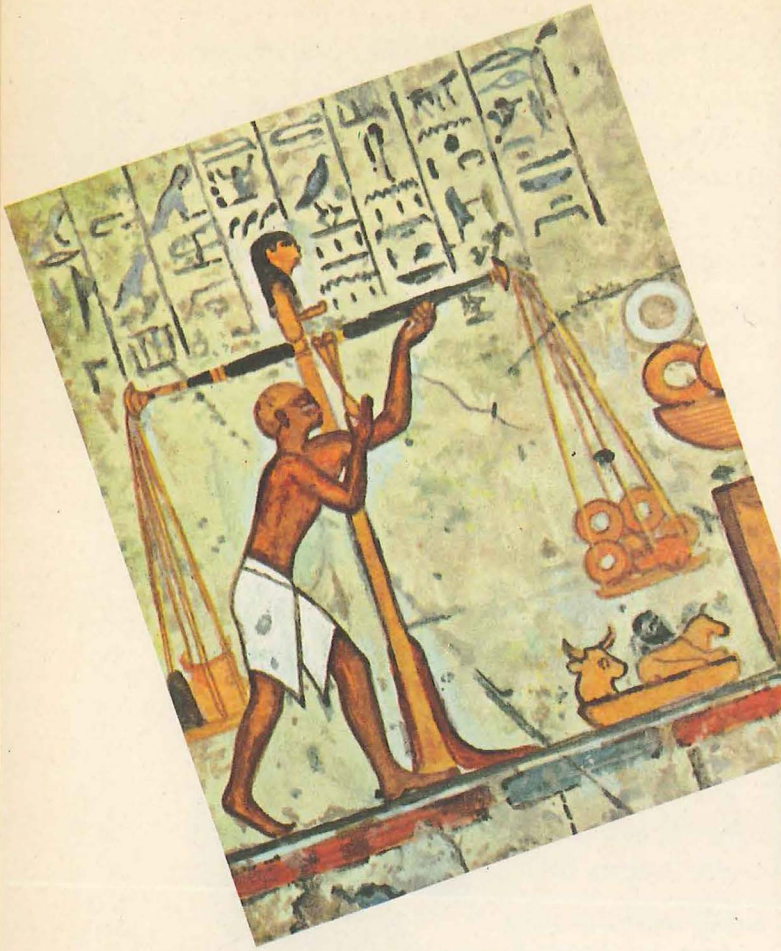
When Christians use the term Bible they include both the Old and the New Testament. However, they consider the New Testament to be the more important of the two.

Our present book deals mainly with the Old Testament. The New Testament will be treated in a separate Wonder Book. Whenever we use the term *Bible*, we shall mean only the *Old Testament*.

Israeli shepherd today playing a musical instrument similar to one David might have used in Biblical times.



The scene at left could be an account from the Bible instead of what it is: nomadic Arabs and their herds in the Syrian-Arabian steppe today. The donkey is still the main beast of burden and the black goat and white sheep are still the treasured flock.



An Egyptian painting on the walls of a tomb, found in Thebes, shows the weighing of gold and silver rings, which took the place of money in those days. As the Bible relates, Abraham agreed with Ephron the Hittite to pay for Sarah's burial ground four hundred shekels of silver "according to the weights current among the merchants."

Until now we have spoken of the Bible as if it were a single book. Actually, it is a magnificent library containing a collection of a number of books that were written at different times over a period of more than a thousand years. But they are similar in that they tell us about God and how we can best serve Him. By serving Him and doing His will, the Bible also tells us, we can find happiness and contentment.

Is the Bible more than one book?



At one time or another you must have

What is the Riddle of the Universe?

wondered why a fruit torn from the tree falls down instead of up.

Scientists who study such matters have explained that loose objects always fall to earth instead of away from it because of the Law of Gravity. The Law of Gravity says that objects within a certain distance from the earth are pulled to the earth like iron is pulled to a magnet. Scientists can tell you at what rate of speed the object will fall, whether a heavy object falls more quickly than a light object and in what direction it will fall. But scientists have never explained *why* this should happen. They only describe *how* it happens.

The religious thinker asks not *how*

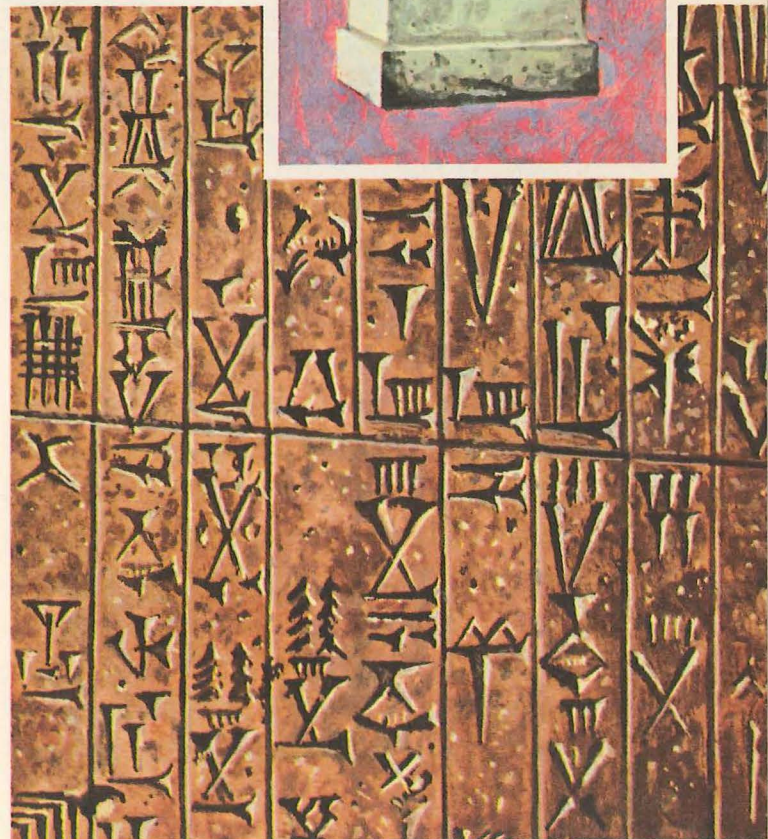
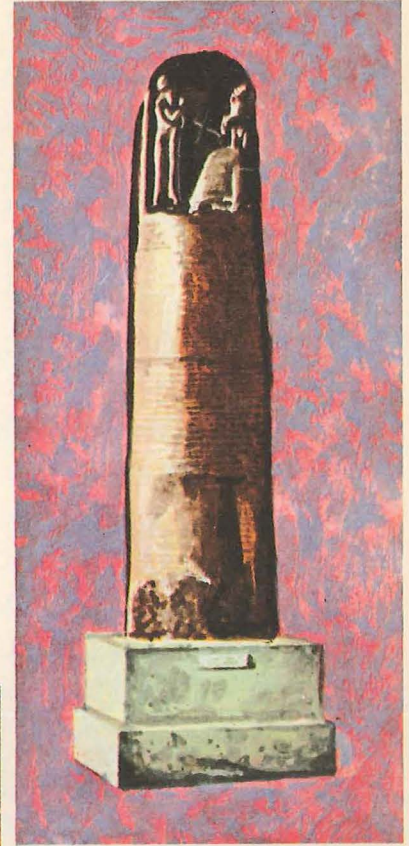
The ruins of the capital city of the Hittites were found by archaeologists near a little village in what is today Turkey. A great amount of clay tablets with inscriptions were found as well as reliefs like the one illustrated, which shows a lion hunt.



does the object fall but *why* does it fall. *Why* does the earth exert pull? It would be simple to answer: because of the Law of Gravity. But the religious thinker will continue to ask: But who made the Law of Gravity? For him, the answer is that God is the source of all natural laws.

We can take another example. Scien-

Amraphel, King of Shinar, is mentioned in the first book of the Bible. He and his life are described in a way that makes many people think that he is actually Hammurabi, the sixth king of the first dynasty of Babylon, who ruled from 1729 B.C. to 1686 B.C. He unified the Babylonian empire and became famous through the codex of laws he decreed. Upper right, the stele with the Code of Hammurabi, which was found in Babylonia in 1902 A.D.; under it, we show an enlargement of the inscription which is in cuneiform writing, the script of Babylonia. Every character stands for a syllable and not a letter as in our alphabet.



tists know that whenever a certain amount of the gas hydrogen and the gas oxygen come together under certain conditions, they combine to form the liquid, water. After many experiments and much observation, scientists can only tell us that this change will always take place and how it will take place. But they cannot tell us why it happens this way and no other way. Why shouldn't hydrogen and oxygen form salt when they combine? Or iodine? Or copper?

Science, then, does not always answer the question "why?" The religious thinker, however, is concerned with the "why" of life. Why was man placed on earth? Why are there evil people as well as good people? Why is it better to give charity and to be kind than to be mean and unfriendly? In short, religion asks the answer to what has been called "the Riddle of the Universe."

If we return to the illustration of the falling fruit and the question of who made the Law of Gravity, the religious thinker answers and says that it is God who made the Law of Gravity. God made all the laws by which natural events take place. The seed that grows into a flower, the movement of the earth around the sun, the night following the day — these are natural laws whose Creator is God.

The answer we give, that God is the Creator of all the laws of nature, has an even deeper meaning for us. It gives sense and reason to all of our lives. If we did not believe in God, we would

be forced to say that all the world came about by accident, and that human beings were just like insects and animals who worked all day and slept all night and repeated this meaningless schedule day after day and year after year until they died and turned to dust. Such a life could be empty and without any feeling of value or accomplishment or importance.

But when one believes in God, every moment of life becomes worthwhile. God teaches us the value of being good to others, of the dignity of human life. We are considerate of the feelings of our fellowmen, and we love each person as if he were our brother because this is what God wants us to do.

The Bible teaches us about the existence of God, and the existence of God answers the questions we have about nature, the world around us, ourselves and our own personal worlds.

During the years since the Bible came into being, it has been translated, wholly or in part, into 1,181 different languages including those spoken in the Philippines, the Cameroons, in South America, the Congo, the Republic of Guinea, and in countless other countries on every continent of the globe.

Some of these translations, like the one prepared for the Baffin Land Eskimos, use geometric or other elementary symbols. Others are written in the Cyrillic script used by the inhabitants of the Slavic countries. Some are written in the Chinese alphabet that is read from

**Why is the
existence of
God important?**

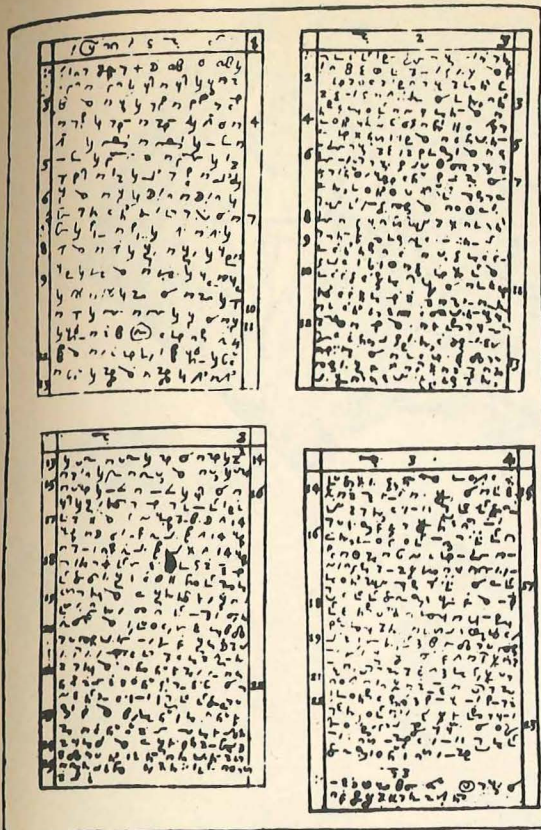
falling fruit and the
question of who
made the Law of
Gravity, the religi-

**In how many
languages does
the Bible appear?**

into being, it has
been translated,
wholly or in part,
into 1,181 differ-



The first booke of Moyses, called Genesis. Fo. i.



Pages from a Bible (New Testament) from the year 1659. It is English, but in a shorthand system used in that time.

At right is a facsimile of the first page of Genesis from the English Coverdale Bible from 1535.

top to bottom rather than from left to right as our English lettering is read. The Hebrew Old Testament is read from right to left.

Since many commercial and private organizations in addition to religious organizations print Bibles or parts of the Bible, it

How many Bibles are printed?

The first dayes worke.



The seconde dayes worke.



The thirde dayes worke.



The fourth dayes worke.



The fifth dayes worke.



The sixte dayes worke.



The first Chapter.



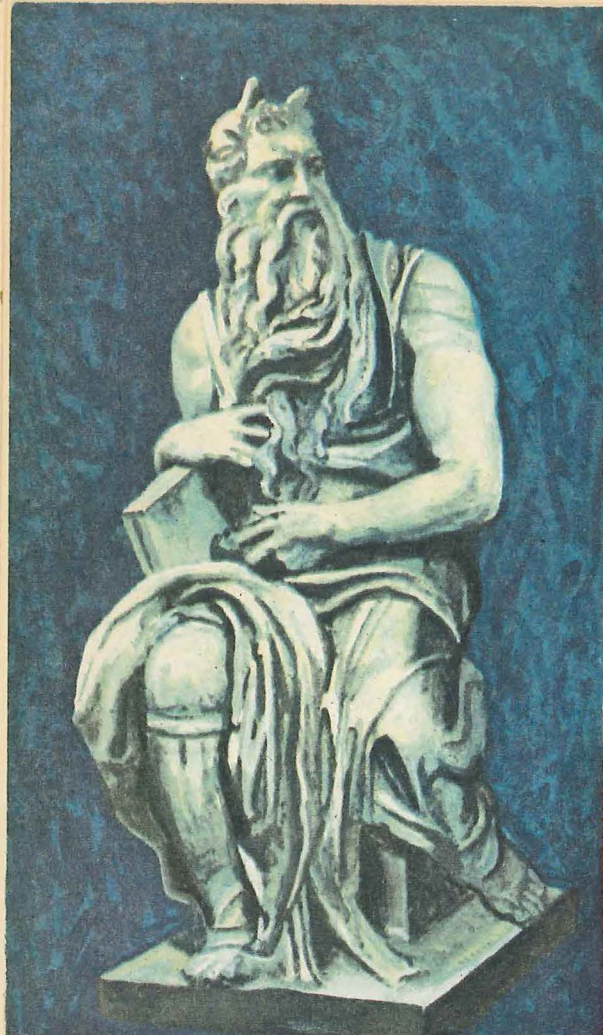
And God sayde: let there be light, & there was light. And God sawe the light that it was good. Then God deuyned & light from the darcknes, and called the light, Daye: and the darcknes, Night. Then of the euenynge and mornynge was made the first daye.

And God sayde: let there be a firmament betwene the waters, and let it deuyned & waters a sunder. Then God made & firmament, and parted the waters vnder the firmament, from the waters about the firmament: And so it came to passe. And God called & firmament, Heauen. Then of the euenynge & mornynge was made the seconde daye.

And God sayde: let the waters vnder heauen gather the selues vnto one place, & the dryelonde maye appeare. And so it came to passe. And God called & dryelonde, Earth: and the gatheringe together of waters called he, & See. And God sawe & it was good.

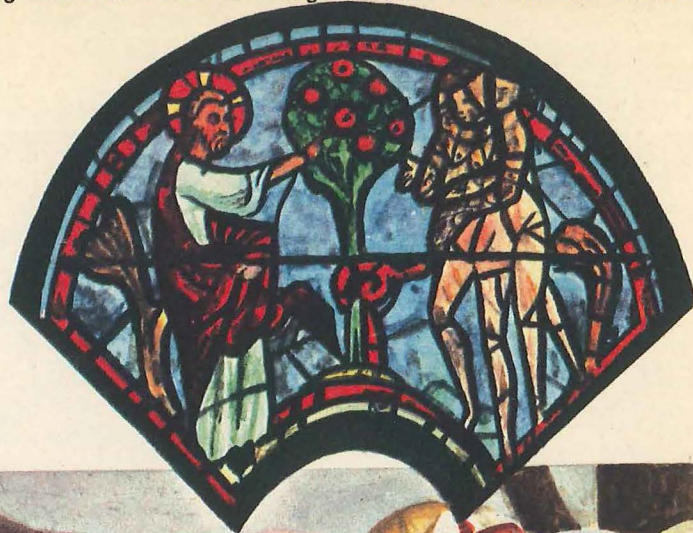
And God sayde: let & earth brynge forth grene grasse and herbe, that beareth seede: & frutefull trees, that maye beare frute, euery one after his kynde, hauynge their owne seede in them selues vpon the earth. And so it came to passe. And the earth brough the forth grene grasse and herbe, & beareth seede euery one after his kynde, & trees bearynge frute, &

is impossible to estimate the number of Scriptures that are distributed each year. However, we may have some idea of the staggering number of copies that are available from the fact that, in the year 1961, 23 Bible Societies, among them the Protestant American Bible Society, distributed 39,277,944 copies of the Bible or parts of it in the world. This figure does not include printings



Michelangelo's statue of Moses.

Stained glass church window showing Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.



by the Jewish, Catholic or commercial groups in the United States. Nor does it include publication in the other countries of the world. It is safe to assume that more than 50,000,000 Bibles were distributed all over the world in the year 1961 alone, and that the number of copies in use all over the globe is probably close to 100,000,000.

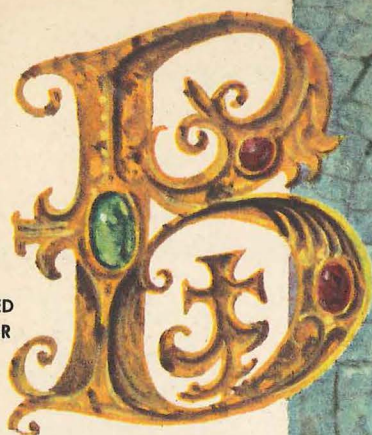
The Old Testament has been in existence for over three thousand years. Through these years, in addition to the

translations of the text of the Book of Books itself, countless numbers of books in all languages have been written to explain it.

The Bible has also been the inspiration for the different forms of art in which people express their feelings and emotions. Many famous poems and stories use incidents and ideas from the

How has the Bible become part of our daily life?

ILLUMINATED
LETTER



Detail from a painting
by Piero della Fran-
cesca, entitled "The
Queen of Sheba."



Head of an Angel. A famous
mosaic from St. Peter's Basil-
ica in Rome.

INFLUENCE OF THE BIBLE IN ART

Bible for their themes. The great English poet, John Milton, for example, wrote "Paradise Lost," which describes how man was driven from the Garden of Eden. He also wrote a poem about Samson who was the most famous strong man mentioned in the Bible.

Bible themes appear in music too. A very famous opera about the downfall of this same hero, called "Samson and Delilah," has been popular for many years. A symphony, "Jeremiah," named after

one of the great Biblical prophets, has been performed very often.

A number of well-known folk songs are also based on Biblical stories. The haunting melodies and words of the spirituals of the American Negroes like "Let My People Go" and "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho" recall favorite Bible tales. These particular songs refer to the story of how God took the children of Israel out of their slavery in the land of Egypt under the leadership of

Moses, and then brought them into Palestine under Joshua's guidance.

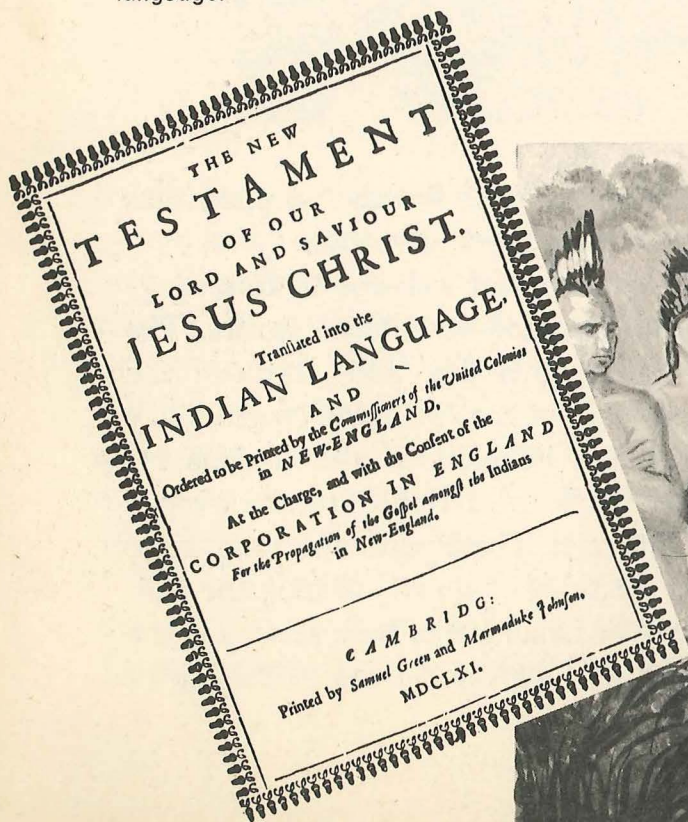
In the world of art, one of the best known masterpieces of all time is the sculpture of Moses, created by Michelangelo, the outstanding genius of the Italian Renaissance. It is now on display in one of the old churches of Rome, Italy, and hundreds of thousands of people flock to see it annually.

An interesting feature of this statue is that Moses is portrayed as having horns coming from his head. Of course, the great Biblical figure did not have horns but a mistake was made when the Bible was translated from the original Hebrew into Latin. The Hebrew Bible tells us that because Moses was a holy man, his shining face sent forth rays of light. The word *rays* was improperly translated into the Latin by the word *horns*. Since Michelangelo knew only

the Latin version of the Bible, he showed Moses as having horns!

The Bible has also given us many expressions that we use in our daily speech. For example, we speak of someone being as "wise as Solomon." Solomon, the son of King David was considered the wisest ruler of all times. We also hear people talk about the "patience of Job" because Job suffered many tragedies yet had faith in God and was patient in accepting all the troubles that came upon him. You recall how the Bible describes the mighty giant Goliath who was felled by a stone from David's slingshot. Even though he was defeated by David, the memory of Goliath's great strength is still remembered. Today, we often refer to a powerful man by the term "mighty as Goliath." When Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden, the serpent who was with them persuaded Eve to sin against God, and so we inherited the expression "sly as a serpent." Another well known phrase is "as old as Methuselah,"

John Eliot trying to establish one of his groups of "praying Indians" and a facsimile page from his Algonquin Bible, the first complete Bible published in America. It was a translation into the Indian language.



referring to one of the descendants of Adam who, according to Biblical record, lived to be nine hundred and sixty nine years of age.

Americans have a special interest in the Bible because the Puritans and the founding fathers of our country based their religious faith and ideas of liberty on the teachings of the Bible, which they studied and read diligently. Many Puritans even had Biblical names and could quote extensively from the Scriptures.

The first holiday that the Pilgrims celebrated in this country was Thanksgiving, a holiday patterned after the Festival of Tabernacles found in the Bible.

The first colleges of our country taught the Bible in the original Hebrew. Hebrew phrases from the Bible can be found on the seals of early colleges like Kings College, now known as Columbia University, and Yale University.

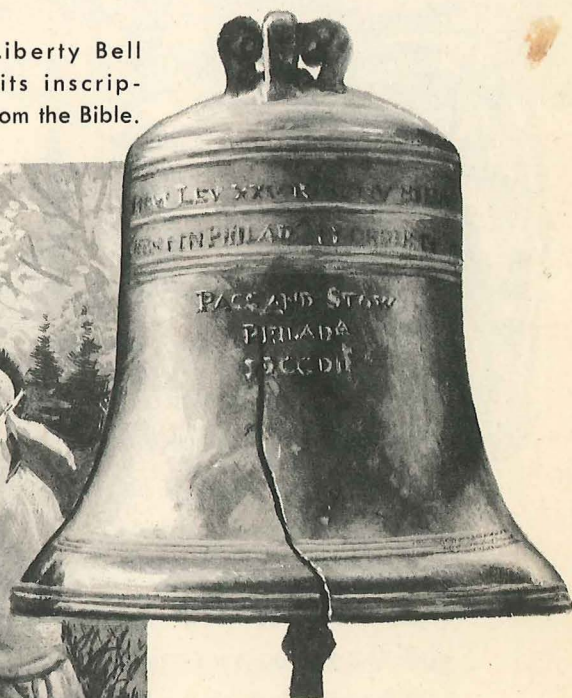
So great was the interest of the colonists in the Bible that, as early as 1663,

it was translated into one of the American Indian languages by a man named John Eliot. This was the first Bible to be published in America.

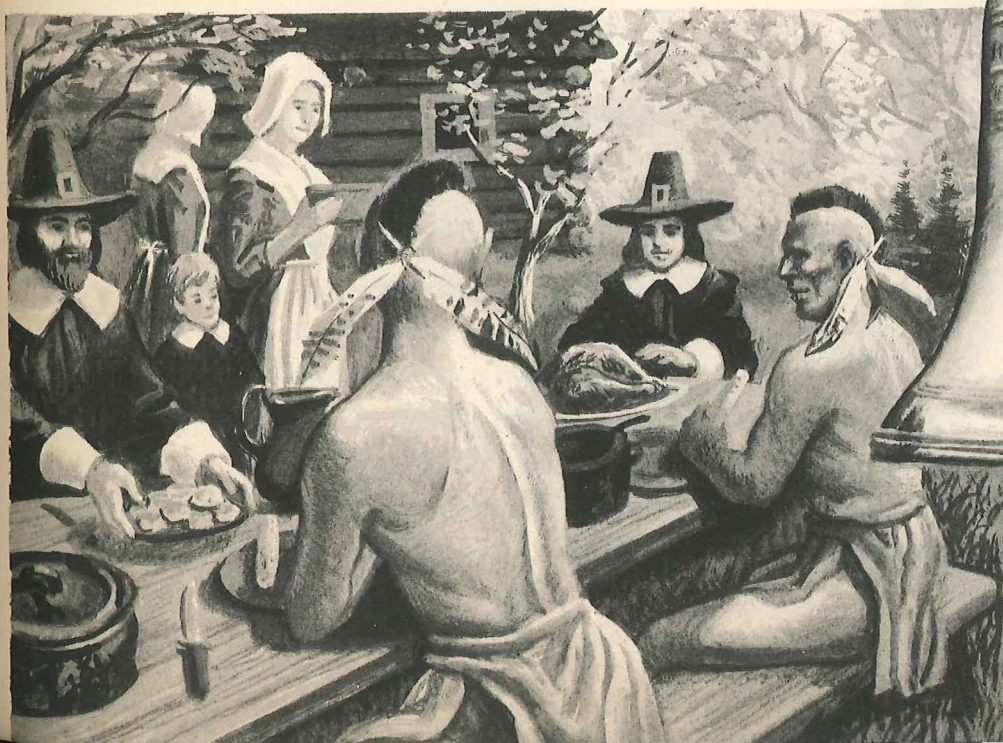
It is no wonder that Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams proposed that the design of the Great Seal of the United States should consist of a Biblical scene. Although the proposal later was not accepted, they suggested that the Great Seal should show the children of Israel escaping from the tyrant Pharaoh and crossing the Red Sea to freedom.

But the most important reminder of the Bible is found in a beloved treasure of the American people, the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. When the Liberty Bell was cast it was planned that an inscription should appear on it which would express what liberty meant to the Colonists. The inscription that was chosen is known all over the world. It comes from the Bible: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof."

The Liberty Bell with its inscription from the Bible.



Thanksgiving, patterned after the Biblical Festival of Tabernacles.



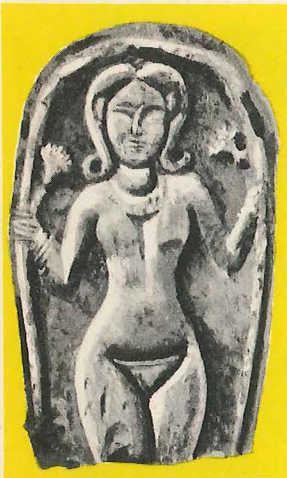
The Moral Teachings of the Bible

In ancient days, before the Bible was written, people tried to explain the events of the world around them by believing in many gods. They believed that there was a god of the harvest, a god of rain and a god of the sun. When the earth was dry, they prayed to the god of rain. When the rivers were swollen and overflowing, they prayed to another god who, they imagined, could stop the rushing currents.

Some also thought that every country had its own god and that when a war broke out, the gods representing the countries also fought each other. They

to the place in which one lived. Every geographic area had a different name and a description of its gods. In some countries, like Babylonia, the kings and rulers were considered gods. In other lands, natural phenomena like the sun, stars and even animals or birds were revered as gods. In those days, people did not believe in the idea of one all-knowing God whom they could not see.

BABYLONIAN GOD-
DESS OF FERTILITY

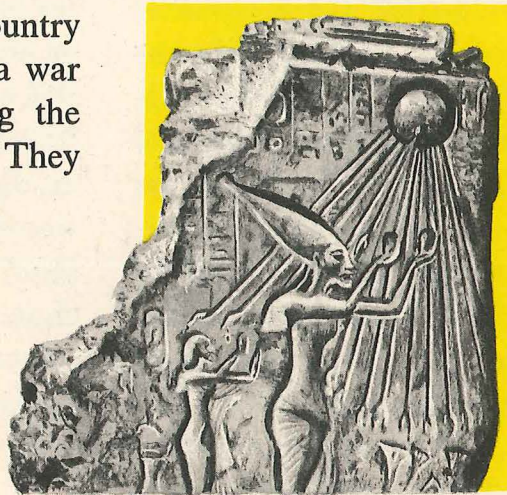


STATUETTE OF PHOE-
NICIAN GOD, BAAL

believed that one god would triumph over the other and the country whose god won was victorious.

The number of gods varied according

CANAANITE GOD



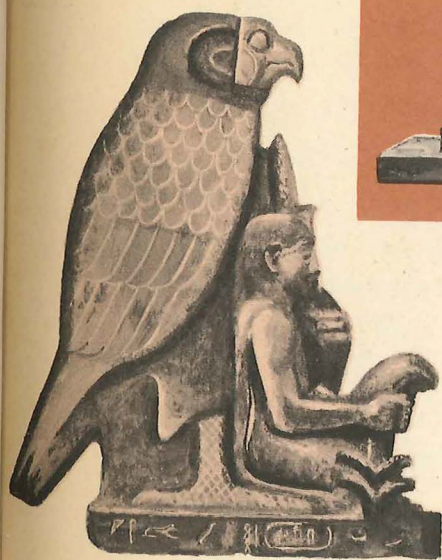
RELIEF WITH SCENE SHOW-
ING ADORATION OF THE SUN



Instead, they made idols of wood and stone and other materials to represent their gods. They worshipped these idols and prayed to them as if the figures themselves were gods. Sometimes they imagined that their idols requested that they perform cruel and evil deeds because they thought that the gods required great and often painful sacrifices from human beings in order to be content. Some people sacrificed their own children to these idols, thinking that the figure of stone, wood or ivory would be

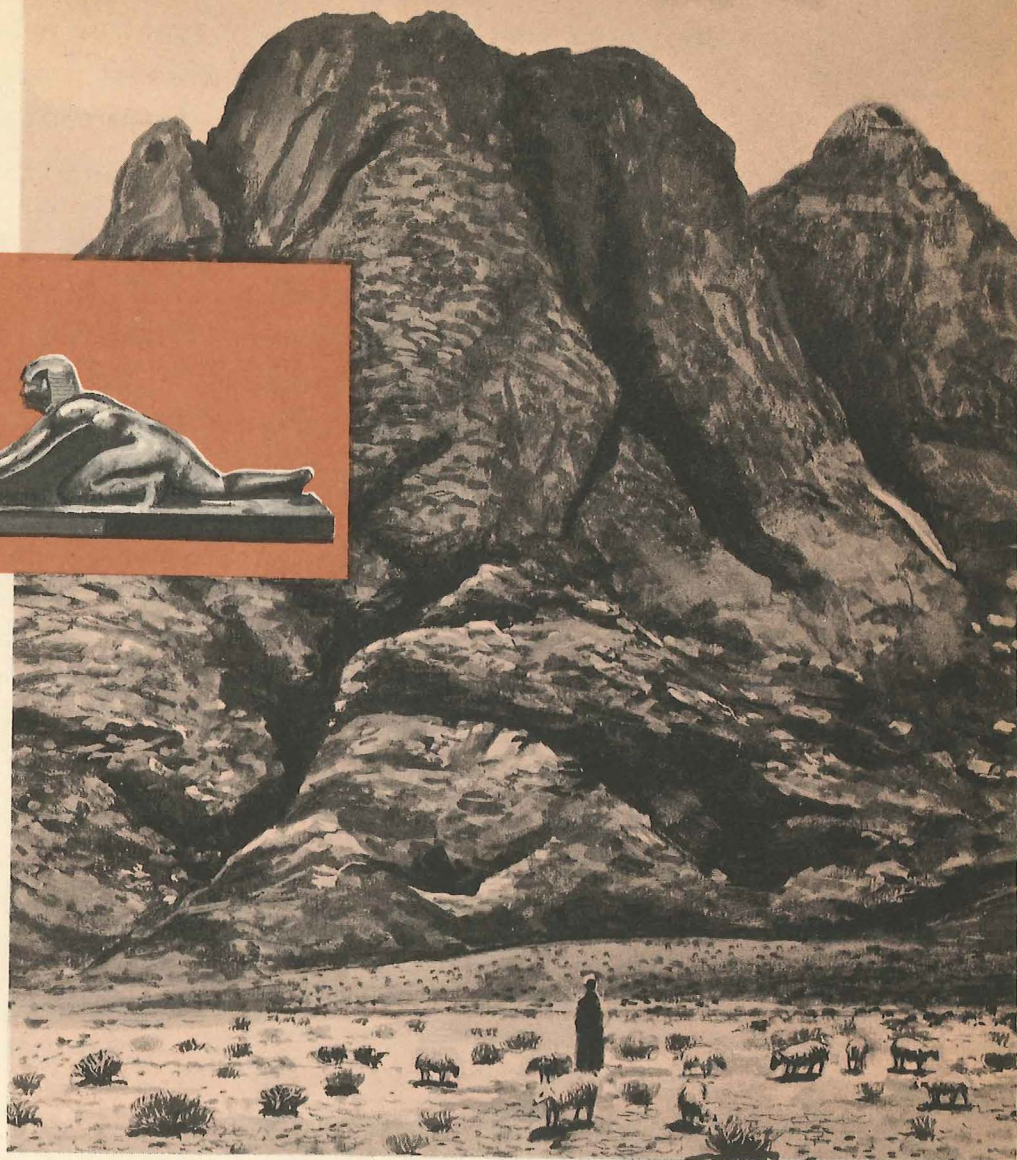
Landscape in the Sinai desert with the traditional Mount Horeb where the revelation occurred.

RAMESES II, PHARAOH OF EGYPT, SACRIFICES TO THE GODS.



BIRD-GOD HUREN WATCHING OVER KING RAMESES II.

All idols shown on pages 16 and 17 are drawn after actual archaeological finds in the countries of the Bible.



satisfied and then would fulfill their prayers.

The Bible relates that the patriarch Abraham was the first man in history to teach that there was only one God in the whole universe and that He was the God over everything — the sun, and the harvest and the rain. Abraham taught that God was the source of nature and of all the laws in the world. Abraham bravely urged the destruction of idols and figures that contradicted his idea about the true God.

The belief that there is only one God is called *monotheism*. Many religions of civilized man today are based on a monotheistic faith.

The teaching of monotheism was continued by Abraham's son, Isaac, and by his grandson, Jacob, also known as Israel. But it took root very slowly and only among the children of Israel. Centuries after Abraham, two dramatic events that had the greatest

**What is
Revelation?**

influence on religious thinking took place. The first was the exodus from Egypt; the second was the Revelation at Mount Sinai.

The Bible relates that, in order to prove His existence to the world, God chose a group of people to bring His message to man. The people He chose were Abraham's descendants, the children of Israel. Unfortunately, they were slaves in the land of Egypt. By a series of miracles, they were brought forth into freedom and their Egyptian masters were punished. This dramatic event proved that all the gods in which the Egyptians believed, the sacred bull, the serpent, the crocodile, the sun, and Pharaoh — the king himself, were of no avail against the true God.

The second dramatic event took place when God revealed himself to all the people of Israel. Until then, God had been known only to individuals like the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to Moses and to Aaron, Moses' brother. But now God revealed himself to a whole people who heard His voice and learned His wishes. Revelation is the name we give to the moment when God lets Himself become known to man.

Seven weeks after the Jews left Egypt, they found themselves at the foot of Mount Sinai, a low mountain in the desert area of the Sinai Peninsula between

What was the Revelation on Mount Sinai?

Egypt and Palestine. Suddenly, it is told in the Bible, amid lightning and thunder and the sounding of a ram's horn, Mount Sinai began to smoke. Giant flames surrounded it. Then a majestic Voice came forth from the mountain proclaiming the remarkable message which is acknowledged all over the world to be the basis of laws and the foundation of our society.

This message of only 120 Hebrew words has never grown old or outdated, even though it is believed to have been given to the world approximately 3500 years ago. It is the guide for everyday living, for morality, decency and goodness. Mankind knows that if the world would ever live up to all the teachings of that Revelation, the threats of war and unhappiness would no longer exist. We call this message the *Ten Commandments*.

The Ten Commandments, also known

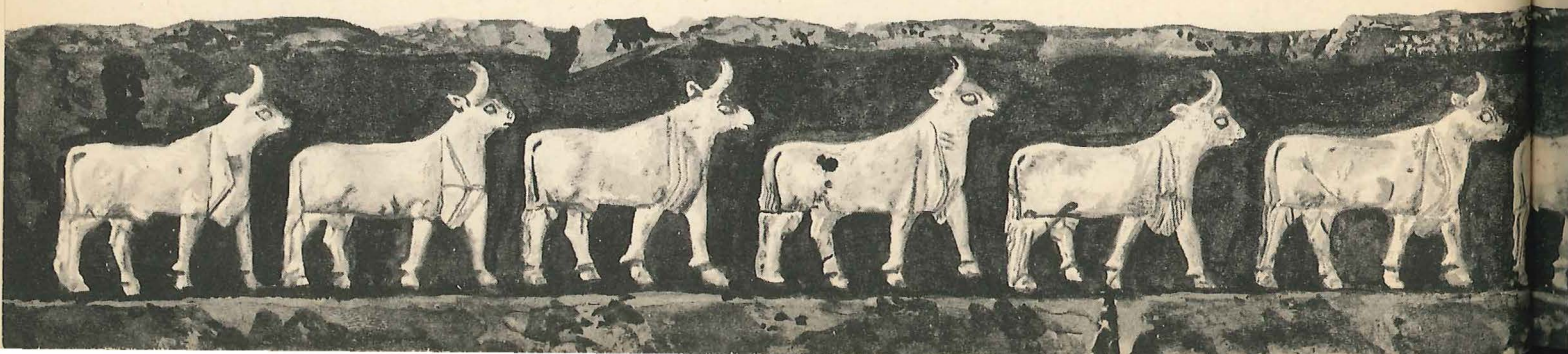
What are the Ten Commandments?

as the Decalogue, which in Greek means the "ten

words," or "ten statements," were inscribed by God on tablets of stone and given to Moses to take down from Mount Sinai. They read as follows:

"I am the Lord thy God, who brought Thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. Thou shalt not make unto Thee any graven image, or any manner of



likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them. . .

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. . .

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. . . The seventh day is a Sabbath unto the Lord thy God, on it thou shalt not do any manner of work. Thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day, wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

"Thou shalt not kill.

"Thou shalt not commit adultery.

"Thou shalt not steal.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house . . . nor any thing that is thy neighbor's."

This listing of the Ten Commandments follows the text in the Book of Exodus, Chapter 20. There is a slightly different version in Deuteronomy Chapter 5. The Christians, however, elimi-

nate the First Commandment from their versions of the Ten Commandments. The Greek Catholics and most of the Protestant churches divide the Second Commandment into two parts in order to maintain the number of commandments at ten. The Roman Catholics and Lutherans divide the Tenth Commandment into two commandments.

We have already seen that when the Ten Commandments

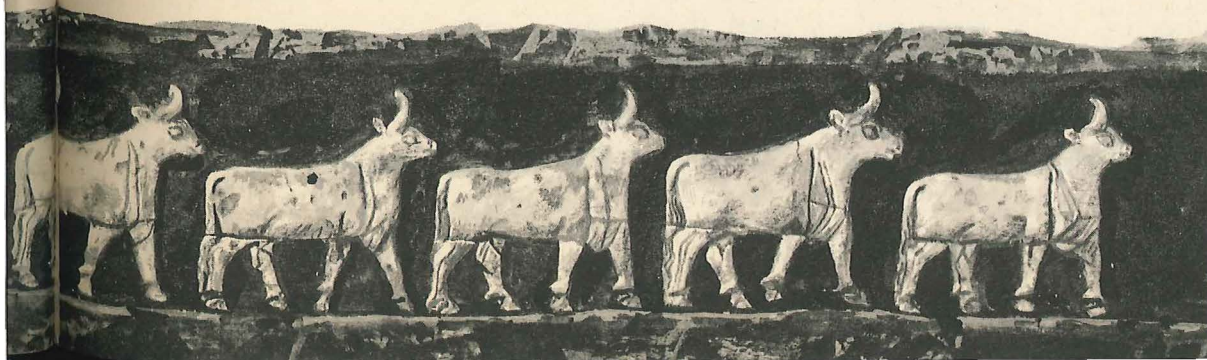
What is their importance?

were given to the Children of Israel,

much of the world still worshipped idols. Law and justice prevailed only in larger communities. Robbers roamed the deserts and pirates ruled the seas. The strong enslaved the weak. The poor were downtrodden and oppressed. Because of their ignorant superstitions, people lived in wretched misery and paralyzing fear.

In this dark world, the teachings of the Ten Commandments were like a ray of light. Consider, for example, the First and Second Commandments which teach that there is only one God and which forbid worshipping idols. These Commandments, if observed, would have removed the idolatry and superstition which were blinding many people to the ways of justice.

The Commandment to keep the Sabbath brought a great social relief to enslaved people forced to labor for cruel masters day and night, week after week,



A frieze of bulls, sacred idols of the Egyptians and Babylonians of Moses' time.

and year after year. People who kept the Sabbath had an opportunity to rest and to find peace of mind for at least one day of the week. Rulers have finally learned from the teachings of the Bible that man's need of a day of rest is vital and important to his way of life.

In Biblical days a stranger or an impoverished man never found peace or security in a foreign land. Yet this same Fourth Commandment specifically includes the stranger and the servant among all those who are entitled to rest on the Sabbath day.

The Revelation was important because the children of Israel, in the glorious moment at Mount Sinai, heard the voice of God Himself. They became witnesses to God's existence, and they were inspired to teach this great truth to others.

The Revelation was important for another reason. There are people who believe that God exists but that He does not concern Himself with the fortunes of men and that after God created the world, His interest in the world was ended. They explain their point of view by using the illustration of an electric clock. If someone wants to provide his friends with a way of telling time, he buys an electric clock, connects it in an electrical outlet, and then leaves. His worries are over since, from the moment the clock is connected, it will run itself. It needs no regular winding up or hand-setting. These people believe that the same thing is true of the world. God

made it ready, started it up and now it runs by itself without needing any further attention.

The Revelation proved to us that God did not create the world and let it run by itself. On the contrary, it showed that God is interested enough in how mankind behaves and what mankind does, because God gave the world the Ten Commandments many years after the creation, to tell people to live properly.

The Ten Commandments were inscribed on two tablets of stone, five on each side. This arrangement of the commandments

emphasizes visually the two types of obligation that every human being has: duty towards God and duty towards his fellowman.

The first five Commandments deal entirely with man's duties to God. It is interesting that the Fifth Commandment which calls upon us to honor our parents is included as a duty to God. This is true because our parents are partners with God in creating us. When we honor our parents, we also honor and respect God with whom they are associated in the act of creation.

The last five Commandments refer explicitly to man's duty towards his fellowman, teaching respect for life and property. All our laws against murder and theft and giving false testimony come from these Commandments. Religious people have always claimed that if every man lived by these laws there

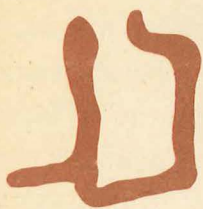
For what other reason was the Revelation important?

the children of Israel, in the glorious moment at Mount Sinai, heard the voice of God Him-

What are the subjects of the Ten Commandments?

scribed on two tablets of stone, five on each side. This arrangement of the commandments





The Biblical account of Moses coming down from Sinai with the Ten Commandments inspired Paul Gustave Doré, the famous 19th century French illustrator of the Bible, to do this engraving.



would never be bloodshed, hatred, war, envy, or evil in this world. A man, at all times, would have dignity and his life would have value.

It is very meaningful that, in the Ten Commandments, God placed man's duty to man on the same level as He placed man's duty to God. We might have thought that the Ten Commandments, which are the most important religious teaching, would be concerned solely with how to worship God. But both sets of duties, the duty to God and the duty to man, are included in the Ten Commandments.

Therefore, one cannot say, "How I behave towards my fellow man is not important as long as I believe in God and pray to Him." Nor can one say, "I do not have to believe in God as long as I behave properly towards others."

Morality is based on belief in God, on God's commandments and His wishes. If we separate goodness from religion or religion from goodness, then we are denying God's role in our everyday life.

We fulfill our duties to God and man, not from fear, but from love of God and man. The Bible emphasizes this and

equates our relationship to God with our relationship to our fellow man.

The Bible says: "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy might." It also teaches, "and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." How meaningful it is for love of fellow man and love of God to be intertwined, one with the other!

To love God means to think of Him all

**How should we
love God?** the time and to
thank Him con-
stantly for giving

us our life, the trees, and the stars, and the moon, and the air we breathe. We are grateful to God for those beautiful things that are dearer than all our material possessions, such as the blessing of having parents and brothers and sisters. When we love God, we recognize Him as the kindest and warmest and dearest power in the universe. We hold Him in such high regard that we want to be as much like Him as possible. By loving God we mean, therefore, accepting Him as the model of our lives and striving always to improve our ways in order to come closer to Him.

Of all the great moral teachings of the

**What is the
"Golden Rule"?** Bible, the com-
mandment to love
one's neighbor is

the most noble. It is different from all the other laws which tell us how to deal with specific problems and how to behave in special situations because it is a broad and general teaching that applies at all times under all conditions for all men. It is known as the "Golden Rule"

because it shines as gold amidst all the requirements that human beings are called upon to observe.

In many ways, the Golden Rule is also the hardest law to fulfill. We know it is wrong to steal or murder, but many of us frequently neglect to be kind and considerate to our neighbors. Therefore, the "Golden Rule" was given as a constant reminder of our duties to be careful of doing anything that might hurt others. The "Golden Rule" applies not only to those whom we know but to the stranger and alien as well. It tells us to hold the honor, feelings and possessions of each man as dear as our own. It teaches us the importance of human dignity and of respect for the sensibilities of others.

To love man means to believe that every

**How do we
love man?** man, having been cre-
ated by God, has in
himself a spark of holi-
ness that comes from God.

Since every man is created by God, we are all children of the same father, and, therefore, brothers. As the Prophet Malachi put it "Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us?"

If we are brothers, then, to love one's neighbor means to deal justly and properly with him as we would with a brother. Justice is not revenge or punishment, but a relationship between people, a *just* relationship. Justice is one of the ways of showing true love and brotherly care. For this reason we find that "Justice, justice shalt thou follow" is an ever recurring theme of the Bible. The Prophet Amos cries out "Let justice roll down as the waters, and right-

eousness as a mighty stream." Where there is no justice or equal rights and protection for every person, regardless of whether he is rich or poor, strong or weak, there is a denial of true religion and godliness. Therefore, the Bible says: *"Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment; thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor favor the person of the mighty; but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbor."*

Similarly, we are told:

"Thou shalt not oppress a hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that are in thy land."

We are accustomed to thinking of justice as a principle to be practiced only in law courts. Justice is more than that. It describes every aspect of human behavior. Without justice there is oppression and the trampling of the helpless and defenseless. Lack of justice leads to murder and destruction. The practice of true justice fulfills the religious principle that all men are equal and that there is no superior race and no superior man. The Prophet Isaiah sums this up in his declaration, "The Holy God is sanctified by justice." God is worshipped best when man practices justice.

Of course, the Bible teaches over and over again the importance of justice in daily business transactions: "Just scales, just weights, just measures shall ye have" and "Ye shall not steal; neither shall ye deal falsely nor lie one to another and ye shall not swear by My

name falsely. . . ." But in order to reach the highest form of justice, man must make it his way of life, letting it guide him in everything he does.

The Bible is an encyclopedia of good behavior. It tells us that we must not injure our fellow man, or insult or pain him, and we must not even hurt him by the evil thoughts we have. "Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thy heart. . . . Thou shalt not bear a grudge. . . ." An evil thought is as sinful as an evil deed. King Solomon in one of his famous proverbs says, "If thine enemy be hungry give him bread to eat, and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink. . . ." Even when a man is known to be your enemy, you should try to win him with love, not force.

The Prophet Zechariah summarizes what we have been saying:

"Speak ye everyman the truth with his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbor; and love no false oath: for all these things I hate, saith the Lord."

Another of the recurring themes in the

Book of Books is mercy and compassion for the needy and helpless. "Therefore, I command thee saying, Thou shalt surely open thy hand unto thy poor and needy brother in thy land." And, "If thy brother be waxen poor, and his means fail . . . then thou shalt uphold him. . . ."

How does the Bible guide our behavior?

What are justice and human equality?

What does the Bible say about charity?

In the beginning of the 16th century, the famous German painter and engraver, Hans Holbein the Younger, created "Images of the Old Testament," which is considered one of the most wonderful series of illustrations of the Bible in existence. Our illustration, taken from this series, shows Moses receiving God's Law of the Harvest and Gleanings, which describes as an act of



of charity the right of the poor to glean in the fields of the rich. Interestingly enough, Holbein shows the revelation taking place in a typical German landscape. In those days, painters took the license to picture Biblical events in the background, and costumes of their own age and geographical home.

Assistance to the poor, according to the Bible, is not something that one may or may not choose to do. Charity does not depend on one's personal sense of decency or mercy. It is a duty that one is obligated to fulfill, whether one desires to do so or not.

In the Book of Job, the hero of that book describes how one who lives according to the Bible behaves:

*"Never have I eaten my morsel alone,
Without sharing it with the fatherless;
Never saw I any perish for want of
clothing,
But I warmed him with fleece from my
lambs."*

Only in the eyes of men is it possible for a person to be a stranger. In the eyes of God there are no strangers since He created all living things.

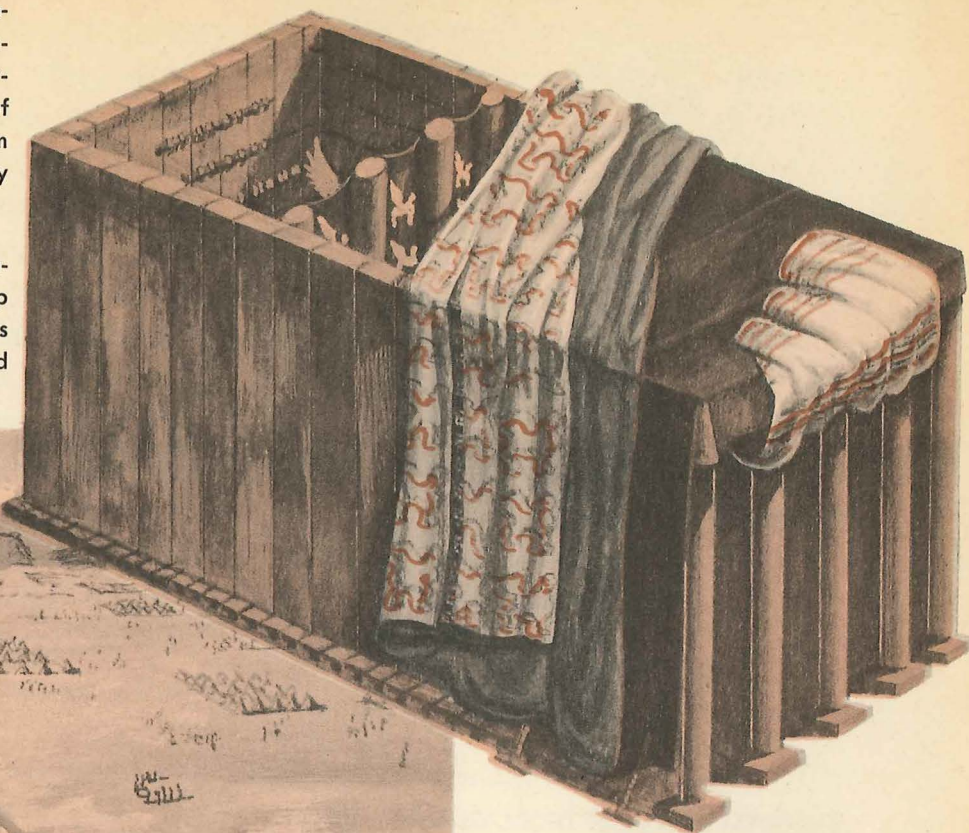
**How should
the outsider
be treated?**

Unfortunately, there has always been discrimination against strangers. In Roman law, every alien was suspected of being an enemy. Therefore, a special law applied to the stranger. In some countries, strangers were not permitted to own land. Today there are countries that *still* deny civil and political rights to sections of their population whom they consider to be foreigners. This kind of behavior denies the belief that God is the common father of all men and that all men are brothers.

On thirty-six different occasions, the Bible stresses the need to give equal treatment to the stranger. This is done to protect the alien because he is a human being and a child of God even though he is not a member of one's immediate family or community. We have already seen several references to this in connection with the Fourth Commandment and other laws. There are

The Bible tells that during the revelation on Mt. Sinai, God commanded Moses to set up a tabernacle. The passage in the Book of Exodus reads: "...and let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst."

The illustrations give an artist's conception of the sanctuary, a closeup of the tabernacle and the garments of the high priest — all described in the Bible.

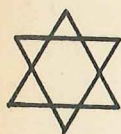


many other instances where this great lesson is repeated. "Cursed is the man that perverts the justice of the stranger," and "Ye shall have one manner of law

as well for the stranger as for the home-born," and, "If a stranger shall sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not do him wrong. The stranger that sojourn-

eth with you shall be unto you as the homeborn among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself." Over and over, the Bible urges man to treat the stranger and the outsider as an equal.

The belief that all men are equal is the principle upon which the Bible establishes all human relations. The verses we have quoted show how this belief must be acted upon to grant legal equality, equal aid, and regard to all people, strangers or neighbors.



THE STAR
OF DAVID

A legend that comes to us from ancient days, shows that from the very beginning, when God first created Adam, He planned that all men and all nations should be equal.

**How did God
make all men
equal?**

We know that God has unlimited power and can do whatever He wishes. Why then, if He wanted the world to be populated by billions of people, did He create only one man? God could just as easily have made a million or a billion people.

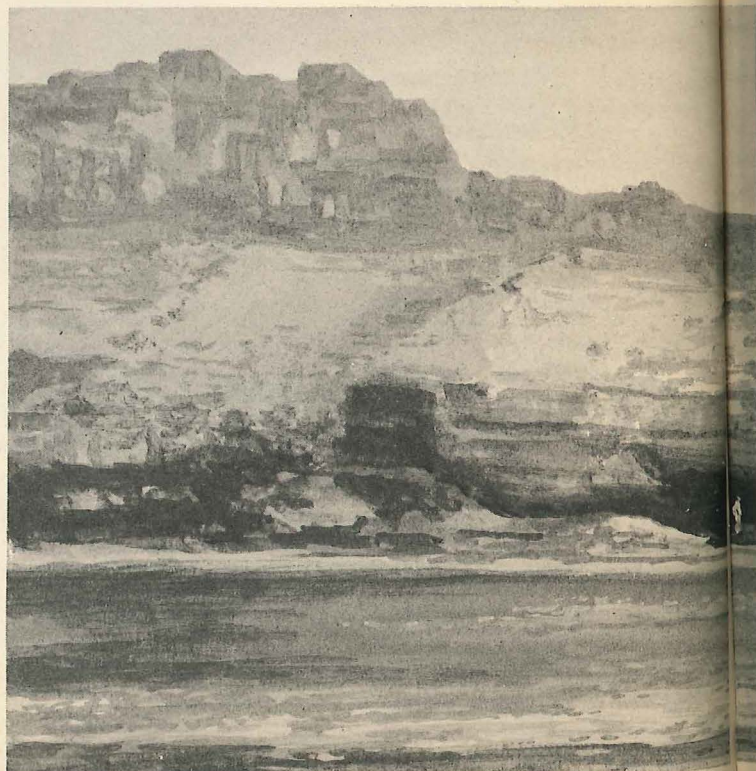
The reason He created only one man, according to the legend, is to teach all men that they have the same ancestor and the same father, Adam. Therefore, no nation can boast that it is better than its neighbor nation and no individual can claim that he is better than his neighbor. All people and all nations have the same roots and the same heritage because they all trace their ancestors to the same man, Adam. Therefore, all men must consider themselves brothers.

The Three Divisions of the Old Testament

The Books of the Pentateuch

The Ten Commandments are the heart of the laws of the Bible. We might compare them to the Constitution of the United States in our own country. The Constitution is the basis for American freedom and law but it is only an outline of the laws by which we live. The citizens of the United States could not regulate their lives and their behavior by the Constitution alone. That is why we have additional laws passed by Congress.

The children of Israel, too, required additional laws to explain the Ten Com-



mandments and to deal with situations not covered by the Ten Commandments.

The additional laws that were required

**What is the *Torah*?
The *Pentateuch*?**

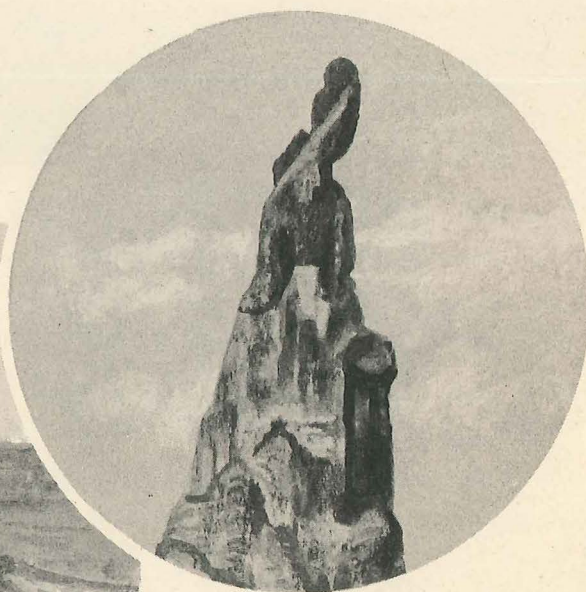
to complete and
explain the Ten
Commandments

were also provided by God to Moses during the Revelation. Together with the Ten Commandments, Moses was given a complete system of laws which he taught the Children of Israel. These laws, as well as the history of the wandering of the Jews in the wilderness before they entered Palestine, are found in the first five books of the Bible. These books are known in Hebrew as the *Torah*. This word means teaching; it describes the laws which are the teachings of God. These books are also known as the Five Books of Moses. Another name for them is *Pentateuch* which is a Greek word that means five books.

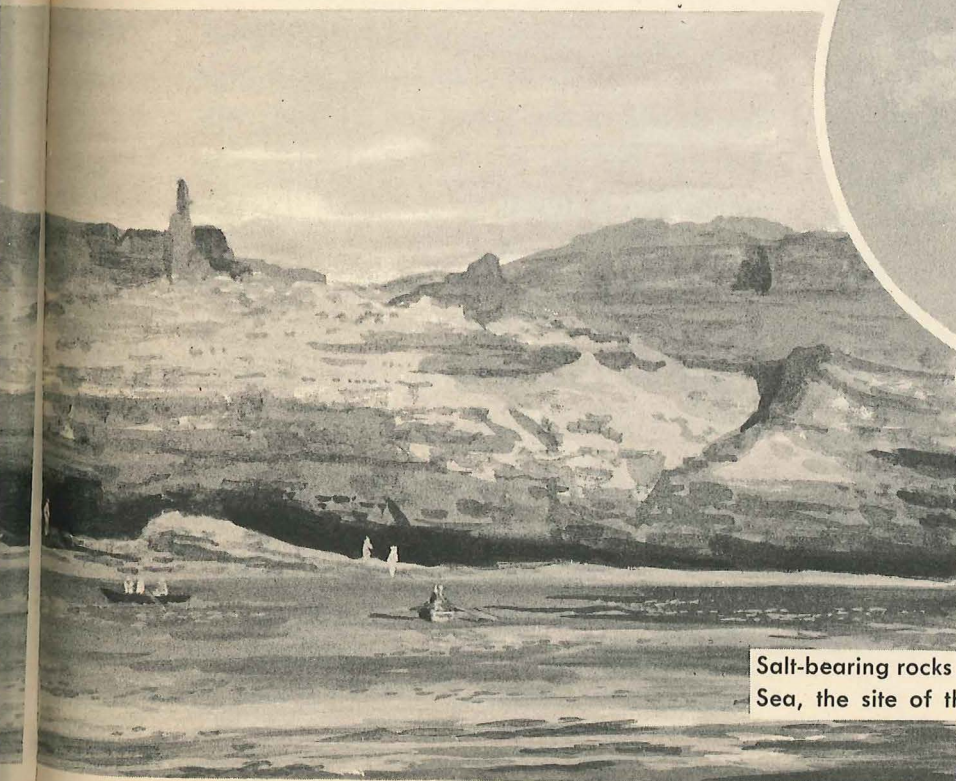


Models of granaries from about 2500 B.C., found in a tomb in Egypt. This is the type of building mentioned in Genesis, in which Joseph had grain stored during his reign as viceroy of Egypt.

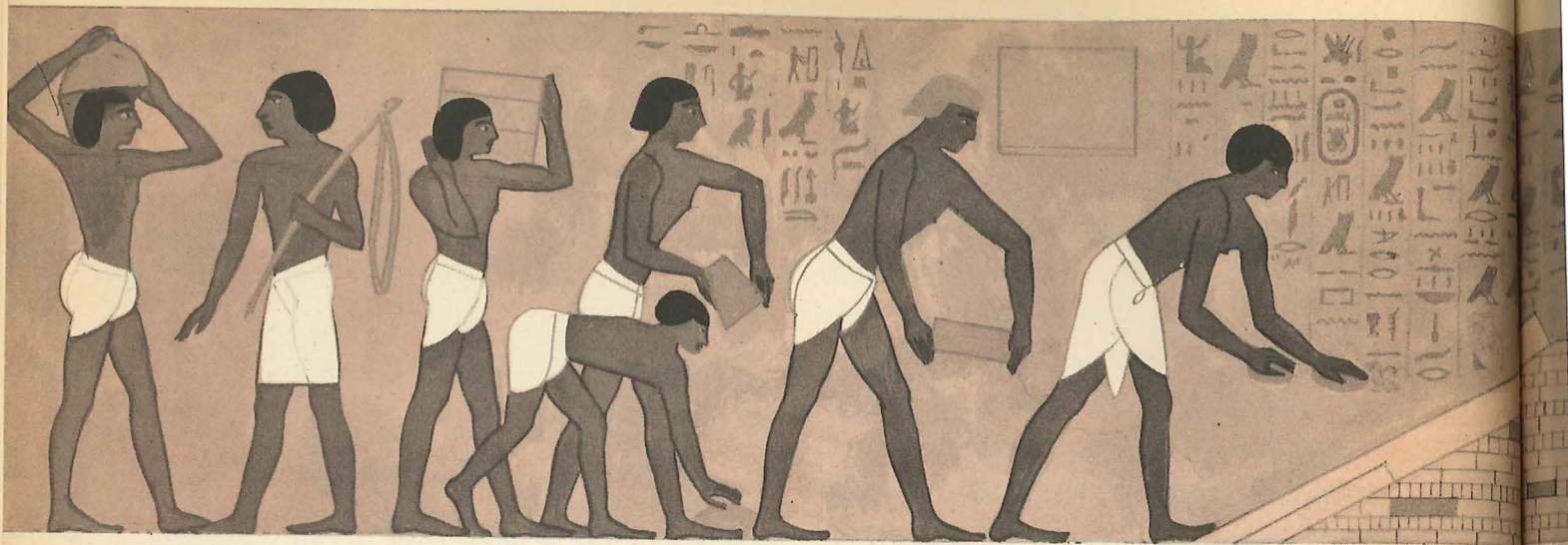
The first of the Five Books of Moses is named "*Genesis*," which means "the beginning." It refers to the story it tells of the beginning of the world and the story of mankind from the time God created the



"Lot's Wife," a pillar of salt over 50 feet high, which, since the grey past, is connected with the story of the destruction of the sinful cities Sodom and Gomorrah.



Salt-bearing rocks of the southwest coast of the Dead Sea, the site of the Biblical Sodom and Gomorrah



world until the Jews became a people and approached the Promised Land of Palestine. The major themes of this Book are the development of monotheism and the recognition of one God by Abraham.

The name of the second book is "**Exodus**" which means "departure." The title refers to the exciting story of the Jews' departure

from Egypt. Here we are told how God took the part of the slaves against their rich and powerful oppressors. The Exodus of the Jews from Egypt illustrates the teaching that God wants all men to be free, with no nation enslaved to another. The Book of Exodus also contains a glorious and awesome description of God's Revelation to man of the Ten Commandments which gave the world its great gift of law and faith.



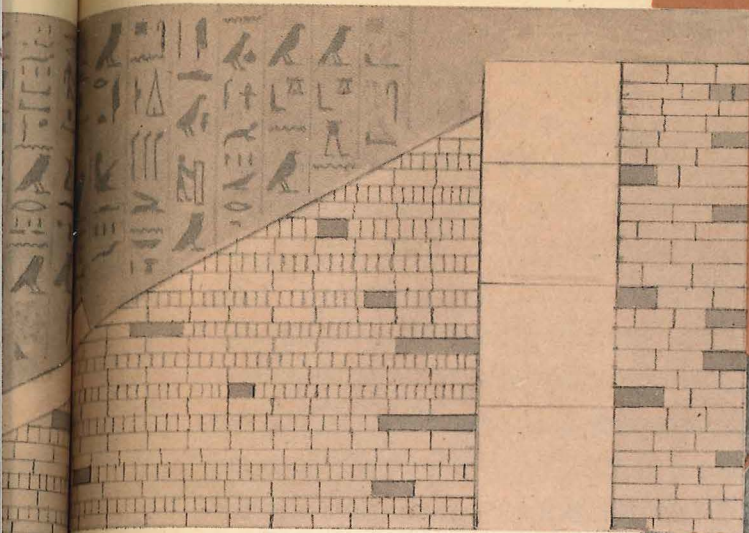
Statue of maid-servant found in Egyptian tomb.



Baskets made of bulrushes, in which, according to the story in the Bible, Moses was put and set afloat as a baby, were found in Egypt and are today in many archaeological museums of the world.

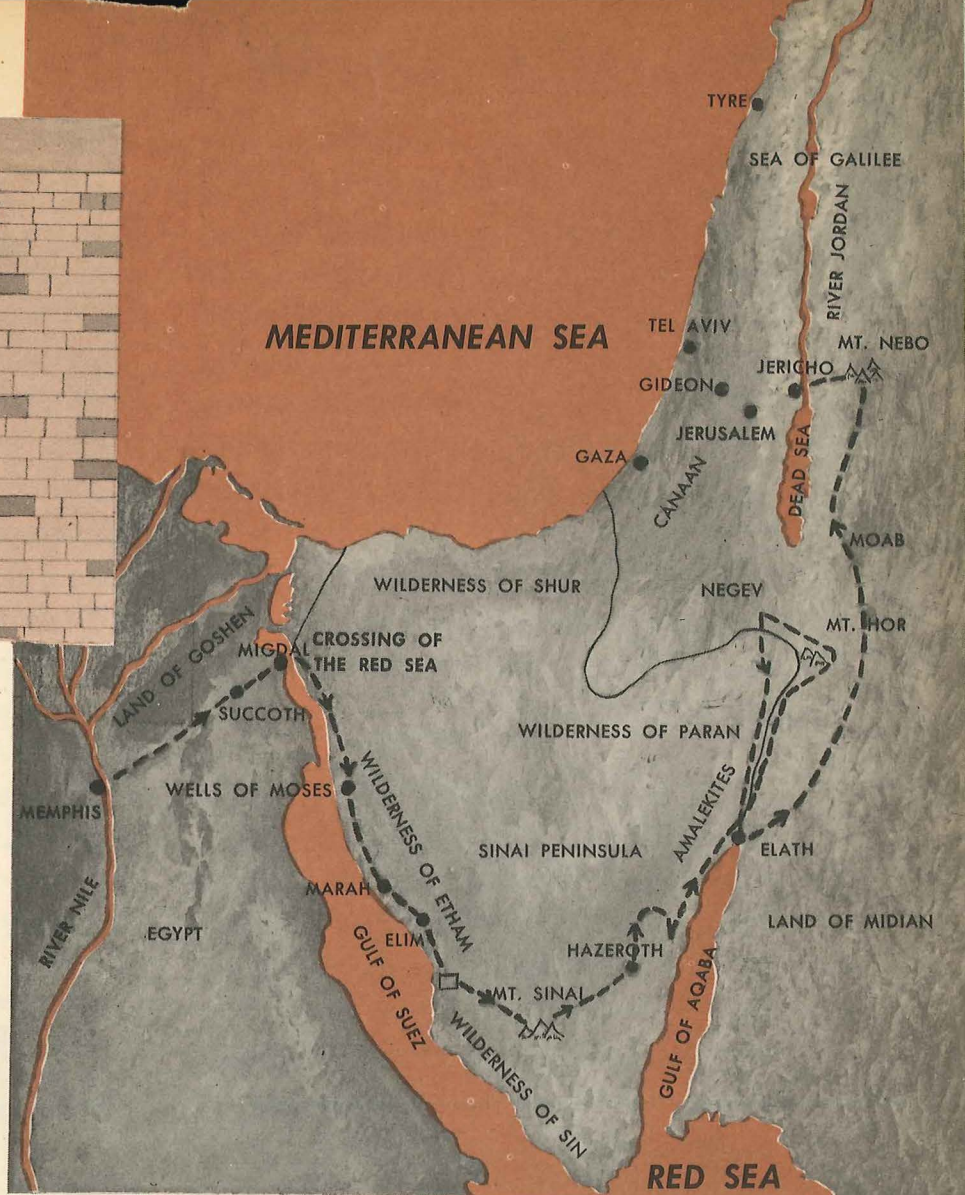
The Book of "**Leviticus**" is the third book of the Pentateuch. It deals almost entirely with the duties of the priests or Levites, who led the Temple services and had other important religious responsibilities. This book also deals with the ideas of holiness and how people are to deal with one another in justice. In this book is found the Golden Rule which is mankind's guide in life.

The Book of "**Numbers**," which is the next volume, is devoted to the history of the wandering of the Jews in the wilderness for thirty-eight years after the Revelation. It gives the detailed laws for worship



Rekhmire, the vizier of Pharaoh Thutmose III. (about 1460 B.C.), had the walls of his tomb painted with scenes of his time. Thanks to him, we have the picture above which gives an idea of the slave labor of the Israelites in Egypt. The Bible gives a report of it in Exodus.

Map showing the Exodus and the route of the wanderings in the desert.



and purification. The famous Benediction of the Priests, used by all faiths, is found here:

*"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee;
The Lord make His face to shine upon
thee, and be gracious unto thee;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon
thee, and give thee peace."*

The last of the Five Books of Moses is the Book of "Deuteronomy," or "Repetition of the Law." This book is the most noble in language and beautiful in prose and poetry of all the Pentateuch. In it, Moses repeats the principles of the laws

given by God in the form of a farewell address to his beloved people. The children of Israel, and through them, the world, are called upon to "love the Lord, thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all thy might." God is not only the Law-giver and the Creator, He is the Friend and Father of all mankind. Through the love of God, man is brought to the love of his fellow man.

Among his final words to his people, Moses recalls the beauty of the teachings of the Bible. The laws of the Holy Book are not difficult to fulfill, he says. It requires only the will and desire to do so:

"This commandment which I put before you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who shall go up for us and bring it down to us and make us hear it that we may do it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who shall cross the sea for us and bring it to us, and make us hear it that we may do it?'"

"But the word is very near you, in your mouth, and in your heart, that you may do it."

The Books of the Prophets

We have quoted the Prophets and spoken of Moses as a Prophet. What is a prophet? We can best understand what a prophet is by looking at the definition of the word. "Prophet" is derived from a Greek word which means one who speaks or interprets the will of God to man. Another synonym for prophet in the Hebrew is "seer."

A prophet is a holy man who, in an indescribable spiritual manner, receives the word of God and communicates it to the people. Frequently, because God lets him see the future, the prophet is able to predict what will happen. The prophet's main duty however, is not to foretell the future as a fortune teller does, but to use his knowledge of God's will to inspire his listeners to be better and more humane people.

The second division of the Bible is called "The Prophets" because it deals extensively with the great prophets and the messages that they brought.

There are twenty one individual books in the section of the Bible known as "The Prophets." These books are divided into two parts called the "Earlier Prophets" and the "Later Prophets."

The "Earlier Prophets" is composed of six books: Joshua, Judges, First Samuel, Second Samuel, First Kings and Second Kings.

These six books cover the historical background of the Jews for about 700 years, from the time of their conquest of the Holy Land until the destruction of the kingdom of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylonia in 586 B.C.

The Books of the Earlier Prophets are rich in dramatic content. They tell us how Joshua conquered the Holy Land and how, when he died, a number of colorful leaders called Judges, succeeded him. Among these famous heroes were Deborah, Gideon and Samson. The tales of battles, heroism, and courage fill the pages of Joshua and Judges with action and excitement.

In the two books of Samuel we read about the great spiritual leader after whom the books are named. Samuel was the inspiring prophet who helped Saul, and later King David, to establish the first Jewish kingdom. One of the moving moments in this history takes place when King Saul and his son, Jonathan, die in battle and David, who loved Jonathan like a brother, chants a song of sorrow over their death:

What are their books?

Who were some of the heroes in the Earlier Prophets?

*"How are the mighty fallen!
Saul and Jonathan were lovely and
pleasant in their lives;
And in their death, they were not
divided.*

*They were swifter than eagles,
They were stronger than lions."*

Before his own death, David was able to capture the city of Jerusalem and to make it his capital. Under the reign of King David, the twelve tribes of Israel were united into a strong and independent nation.

The two books of Kings continue the story of this new nation. We are told how Solomon, the son of David, helped strengthen and develop the united people. Solomon built the splendid Temple of God in the holy city of Jerusalem. The Biblical description of the Temple of Solomon is so magnificent that when we close our eyes we can almost see it.

When Solomon became King, God appeared to him in a dream and asked "What shall I give you?" Solomon answered, "I am still a youth who does not know how to rule. Give thy servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge the people, that I may know the difference between right and wrong. . . ."

From that day on, Solomon was blessed by the Lord with great and lasting wisdom. The fame of Solomon's wisdom spread to all the nations of the

Relief from the 8th century B.C. shows the blowing of the ram's horn. The Bible relates that with the sound of ram's horn trumpets, Joshua made the walls of Jericho tumble.



A relief from approximately the same time showing the use of the sling, the weapon with which David killed Goliath.



The Bible relates how David played the harp for Saul. The clay tablet at right was found in Canaan and shows a musician playing a seven-stringed instrument very similar to the one described in the Bible.



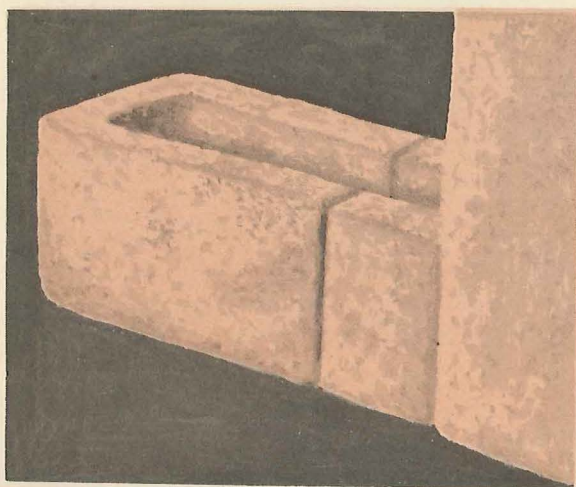
world and many stories are recounted of his proverbs, wise sayings and sage decisions.

Unfortunately, Solomon's son was not as wise as his father and civil war divided the Jewish nation into two kingdoms. The northern kingdom became known as Israel. The southern kingdom, where Solomon's descendants reigned, was called Judah. In time, the northern kingdom was conquered by the Assyrians under Sennacherib, and the ten tribes that inhabited it were exiled and scattered to alien lands. They were never heard from again and are, therefore, called "the ten lost tribes." Later, Jerusalem, the capital of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, was conquered by the Babylonians and Solomon's glorious Temple was burned and destroyed.

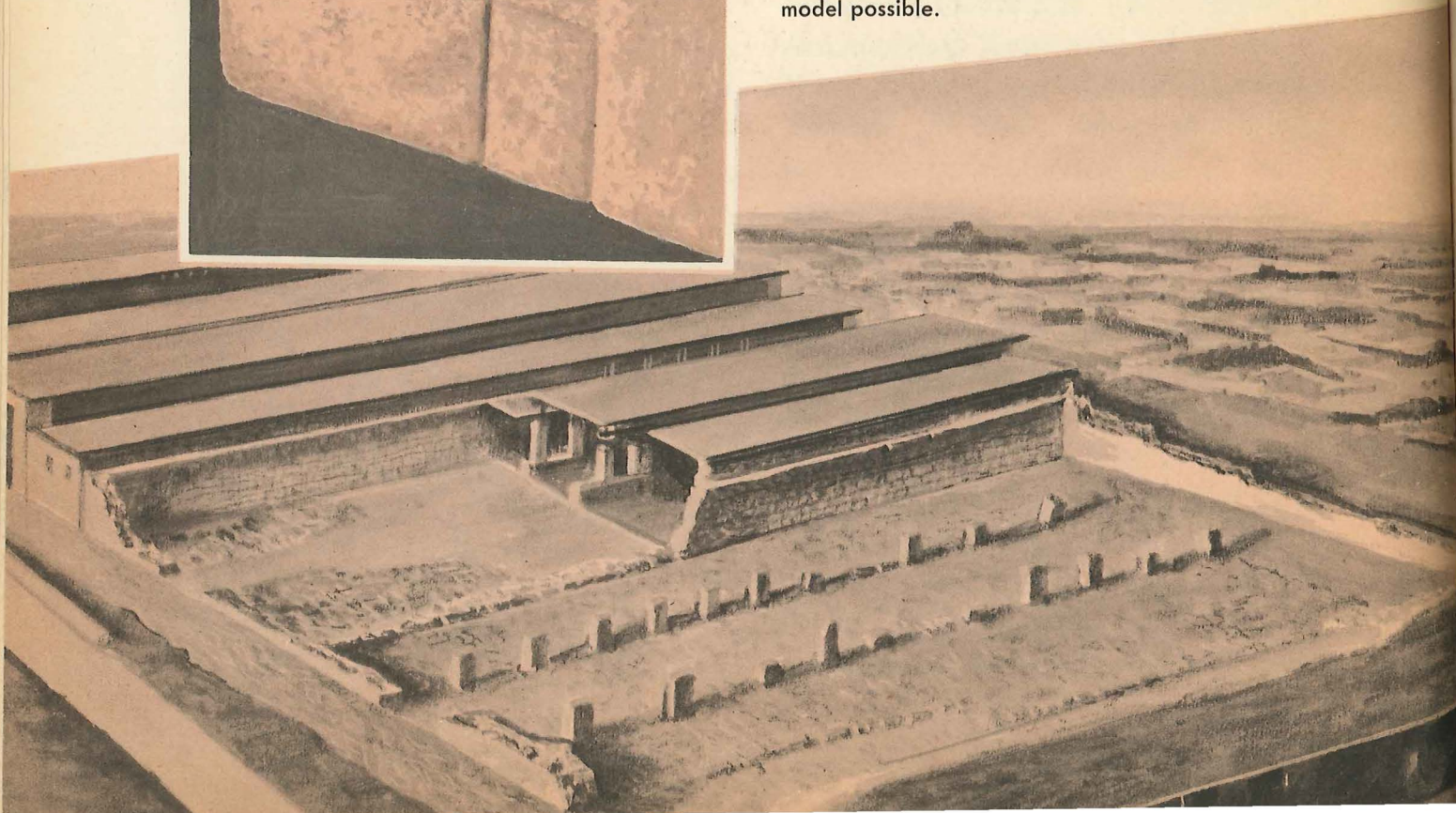
The two tribes of Judah were sent into exile in Babylonia. The short-lived Jewish kingdom thus came to a tragic end.

Before and after the period of exile, a number of remarkable men served as the spiritual leaders of the people. They were prophets of God who educated and taught the people as well as lectured and preached to them. The prophets strove continuously to bring their people to a higher and better way of life. They could not remain silent when they saw evil around them. They foretold destruction and disaster. They warned that God would punish those who did not live in accordance with His laws. The masses of people very often resented their criti-

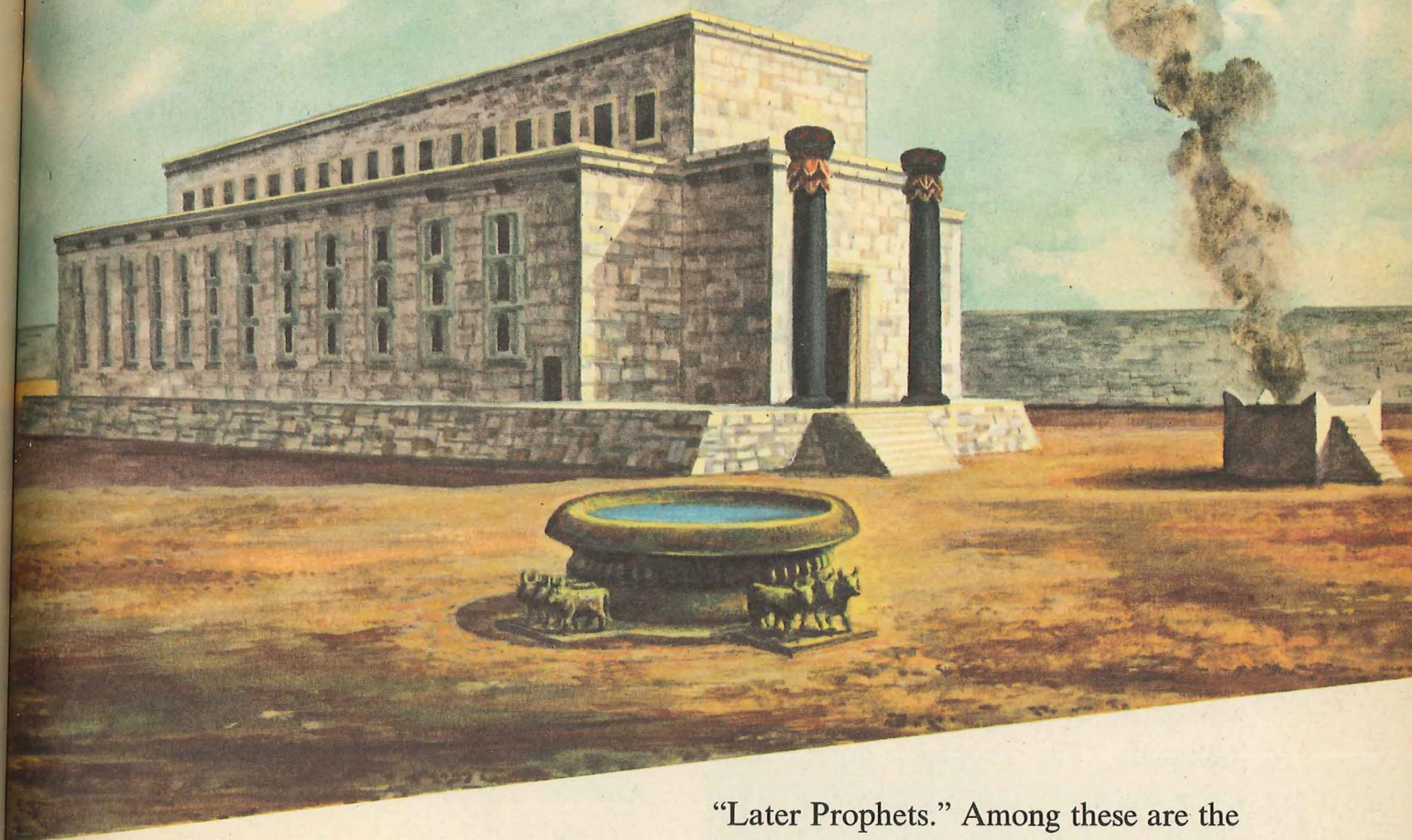
**Who were the
Later Prophets?**



Left, watering trough found in Solomon's fortress, the chariot city of Megiddo, and below, reconstruction of the stables, which could shelter more than 400 horses. Excavations in 1928 A.D. uncovered the foundations that made the reconstruction of the model possible.



Artist's conception of Solomon's temple. Ironically, all the beautiful buildings the wise king erected are gone without a trace; only remains of the stables were found.



cism and rejected their words. The indifference of the people did not stop the prophets and they bravely continued to speak out against kings and rulers and those in high places of government. They attacked idol worship, superstition, injustice and selfishness. They taught the people that God wanted them to be honest and kind and just. They preached a life of goodness so that peace and happiness would come upon all the world, and war and bloodshed would be banished forever.

The works of these prophets, their visions, their prophecies and their preachings, are included among the

"Later Prophets." Among these are the Books of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Their prophecies are so numerous that they are known as the Major Prophets. Twelve other prophets are called the Minor Prophets, not because they are less important, but because their prophecies are much briefer. They are Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

It would take a book by itself to discuss

What was the message of the Later Prophets?

the many themes of the different prophets and to quote their fiery preachings.

There was one basic theme, however,

that all the prophets taught. If the people would only forsake their evil ways, God would always be ready to forgive them! This is the poetic way Isaiah taught this lesson.

*"Wash you, make you clean;
Put away the evil of your doings from
before mine eyes;
Cease to do evil;
Learn to do well;
Seek judgement, relieve the oppressed,
Judge the fatherless,
Plead for the widow. . . .*

*"Though your sins be as scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they be red like crimson,
They shall be as wool.
If ye be willing and obedient. . . ."*

The prophets did not always prophesy doom. They held out the hope of a wonderful world of happiness and contentment. The prophets taught that some day in the future, God would bring lasting and eternal peace to all mankind. Isaiah's prophecy on the wonderful world to come is part of the great literature of mankind.

*"It shall come to pass in the end of days,
That the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be*

*Established in the top of the mountains,
And shall be exalted above the hills;
And all the nations shall flow unto it,
And many peoples shall go and say,
Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,*

*To the house of God and Jacob,
And He will teach us of His ways,
And we will walk in His paths. . . .
He shall judge among the nations,
And shall rebuke many peoples;
And they shall beat their swords into
plowshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks:
Nation shall not lift up sword against
nation,
Neither shall they learn war anymore.*

*"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
And the leopard lie down with the kid;
And the calf and the young lion graze
together,
And a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall feed;
And their young shall lie down together:*

Detail from a panel on the famous black obelisk found in Kalah, showing King Jehu paying homage to the Assyrian King Salmanasar the third.



*The lion shall eat straw like the ox. . . .
They shall not hurt nor destroy
In all My holy mountain;
For the earth shall be full of the
knowledge of the Lord,
As the waters cover the sea."*

In all their words the Prophets restated the teaching of the Pentateuch which called for brotherly love and kindness towards man and faith in God. Nowhere has the formula for this way of life been expressed more simply and powerfully than in the following words of the prophet Micah.

*"It hath been told thee, O man, what is good,
And what the Lord doth require of thee.
Only to do justly, and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with thy God."*

The Writings

The third division of the Old Testament consists of thirteen books, known simply as "The Writings."

The books included here are Psalms, Proverbs, Job, The Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, First

Chronicles and Second Chronicles. These writings represent a collection that mirrors every experience in the life of man. Their prophetic messages, wise sayings and philosophic teachings are known throughout the world. But the most magnificent, personal religious writings are to be found in the Book of Psalms.

The Book of Psalms is written in beautiful and lofty language. Although the Psalms often express deep suffering and pain, doubt and fear, the ultimate faith in God shines through like a brilliant, light-giving gem. The word "psalms" can best be interpreted as "songs of praise," and the 150 hymns, songs and anthems in the book are testimonies to God's glory and greatness.

**Who is known
as the "Sweet
Singer of Israel"?**

ful and lofty language. Although the Psalms often express deep suffering and pain, doubt and fear, the ultimate faith in God shines through like a brilliant, light-giving gem. The word "psalms" can best be interpreted as "songs of praise," and the 150 hymns, songs and anthems in the book are testimonies to God's glory and greatness.



Detail from a relief found in Kalah, Assyria, showing soldiers and officers of Tiglath-Pileser during an attack.



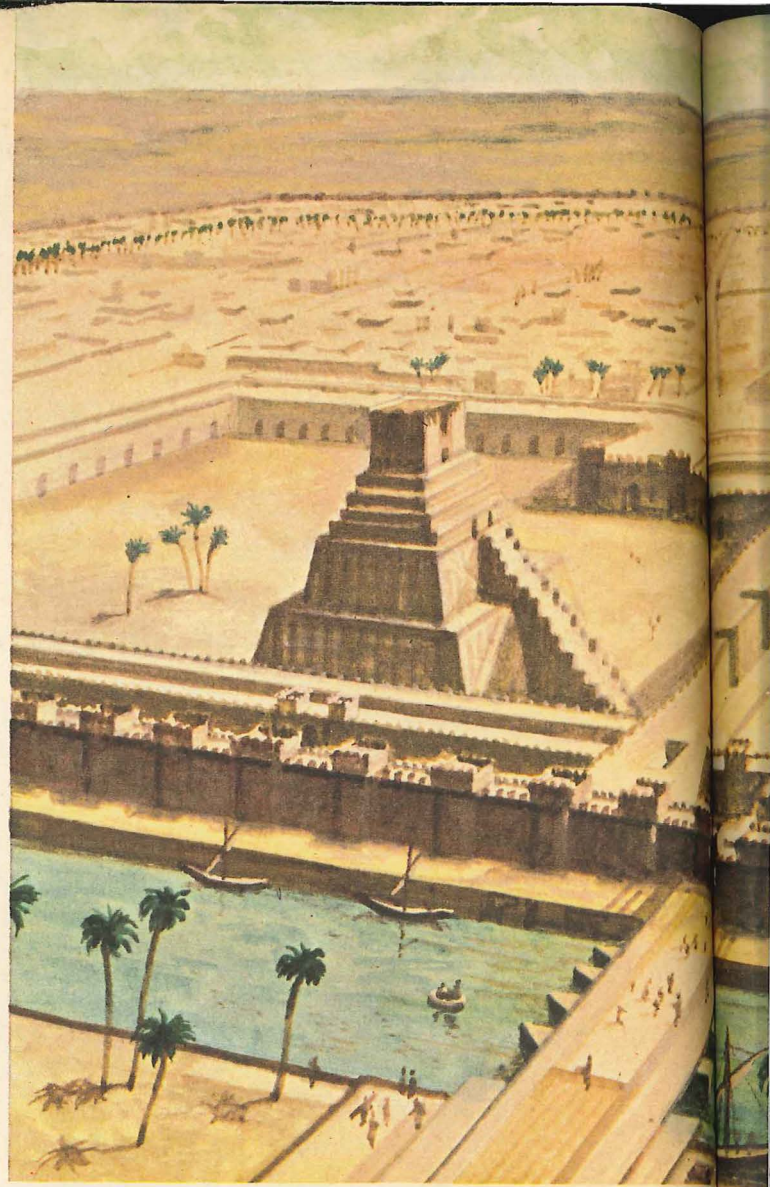
Portrait-plaque of the Assyrian King Tiglath-Pileser III who conquered Israel.

Most of the psalms were written by King David who was a great poet as well as a brave soldier and wise king. Because of his authorship of these lovely hymns, David is also known as the "Sweet Singer of Israel." The poems recreate every one of man's different moods: fear, sorrow, doubt, anger and sin. But they all end in trust and faith. Since everyone at one time or another experiences loss of confidence, worry, shame, loneliness and depression, as well as happiness or supreme confidence, these psalms suit all our feelings. They teach us that what is important to man is not the passing mood, but the certainty that the loving God is always with man and will never fail him. They glorify God as the great power and force of nature, the universe, and man's future. It is no wonder, then, that these poems have been sources of courage and strength to all who have needed God's inspiration.

The best known psalm is a moving hymn of simple faith and quiet courage. The Twenty-third Psalm, written by David, is chanted throughout the world because it simply expresses the relationship between the individual and God and conveys its profound message of hope. In this hymn, God is described as the good Shepherd, who lovingly cares for His flock and tenderly protects them. Because the sheep have faith in their Shepherd, they need never fear nor worry. So it is with men who have faith in God.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;



He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul;

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

For Thou art with me;

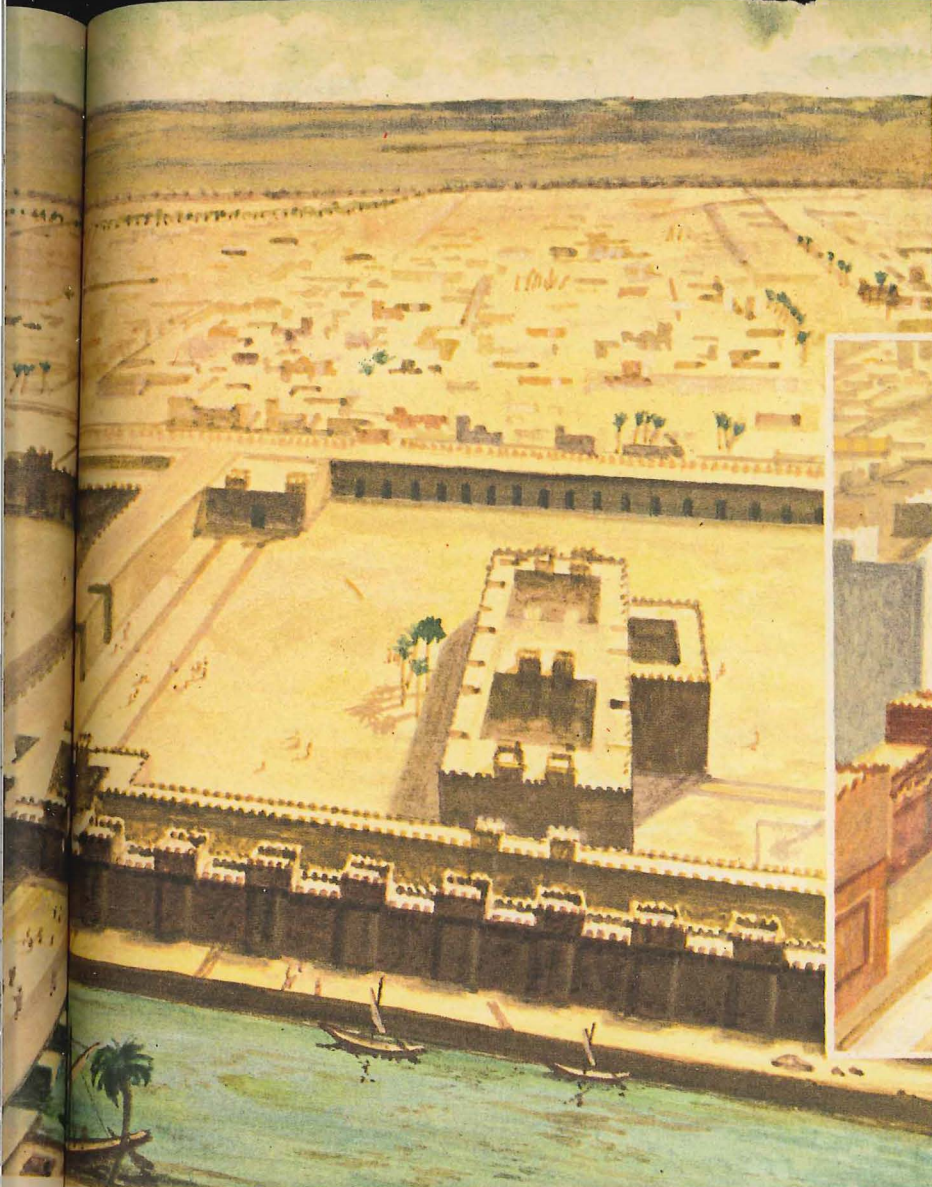
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

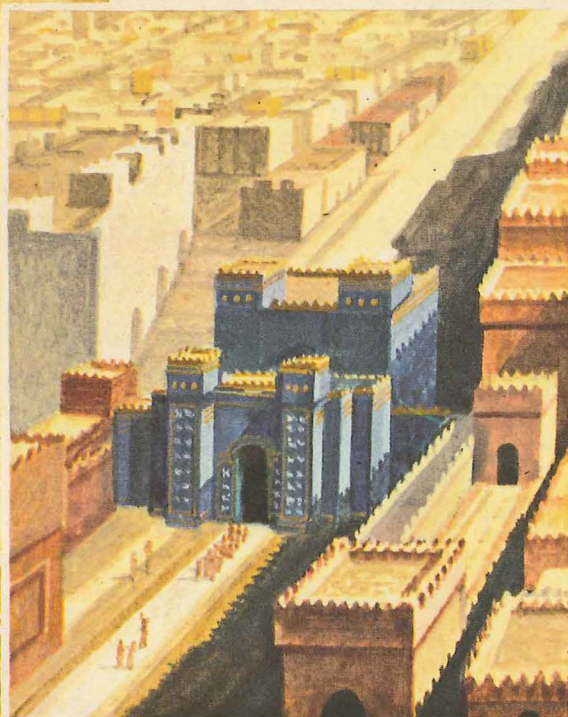
Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."



At left, artist's conception of the city of Babylon at the time of Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian King who led the Jews into captivity. The story is told in the Book of Kings and in the Book of Lamentations.



Above, reconstruction of Babylon's famous Ishtar-gate with a procession just passing through.

Another Psalm which fortifies man in time of peril and gives him confidence in time of danger is the Ninety-first Psalm. Faith in God, it says, is man's shield and protection.

*"He is my refuge and my fortress,
My God, in Him will I trust.*

*Surely He shall deliver thee from the
snare of the fowler,*

And from the noisome pestilence . . .

*Thou shalt not be afraid of the terror
by night,*

Nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

*Nor for the pestilence that walketh in
darkness,*

*Nor for the destruction that wasteth at
noonday . . .*

*For He shall give His angels charge over
thee,*

To keep thee in all thy ways."

The Eighth Psalm pictures the undeserved gifts of life that God has given to mortals. It expresses deep thanks that God should be concerned with the destiny of weak and puny men.

*"When I consider thy heavens, the work
of Thy fingers,*

*The moon and the stars, which Thou
hast ordained,*

*What is man, that Thou art mindful of
him?*

*And the son of man, that Thou visitest
him?*

*For Thou hast made him little lower
than the angels,
And hast crowned him with glory and
honor.
Thou madest him to have dominion
over the works of Thy hands;
Thou hast put all things under his feet:
All sheep and oxen, yea,
And the beasts of the field;
The fowl of the air, and the fish of the
sea,
And whatsoever passeth through the
paths of the seas.
"O Lord, our Lord,
How excellent is Thy name in all the
earth!"*

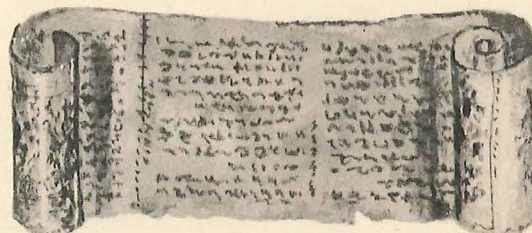
The Psalms also, like the Prophets and the Pentateuch, emphasize the virtues that man should practice. Here is the Fifteenth Psalm in which the truly religious man is described.

*"Lord, who shall abide in Thy
tabernacle?
Who shall dwell in Thy holy mountains?"*

*He that walketh uprightly, and worketh
righteousness,
And speaketh truth in his heart;
He that backbiteth not
with his tongue;
Nor doeth evil to his neighbor,
Nor taketh up a reproach
against his neighbor.
In whose eyes a vile person
is contemned;
But he honoreth them that
fear the Lord.
He that sweareth to his
own hurt,
And changeth not.
He that putteth out not his
money to usury,
Nor taketh reward
against the innocent.
"He that doeth these things shall never
be moved."*

The Book of Psalms is that section of the writings to which we can turn every day of our lives and find new ideas, new meanings and new expressions of faith.

This is how a "book" of the Bible looked until printing was invented.



The Bible Through the Centuries

We have had a brief excursion into the Bible, traveling quickly through its thirty-nine books and learning its beauty, inspiration and meaning for man. It was not as easy in ancient times to browse through the Bible as it is to-

day. When we think of a book, we have in mind a finished volume divided into sentences and chapters, printed on a modern press, with a title page showing the name of the author and the date of the publication. We also think of this

book as one that we can borrow from a public library, buy in a store, or take from our own book shelf.

A book of the Bible twenty-five hun-

**How did Bibles
look in ancient
days?**

dred or two thousand years ago, hardly resembled this description. In those days, the preparation of the materials and implements for writing required much effort, time and skill. Books were written on stone, clay, wood, leather or skin, and papyrus. A stylus was used to write on stone, clay and wood; a reed was used for leather, skin and papyrus. Ink was most probably obtained from the juice of a cuttlefish.

To make a long book, pieces of leather or skin were sewn into one long strip. The writing on this strip was done in columns. When it was finished, the skin was rolled up, tied and covered for protection. This type of manuscript is called a scroll. Books appearing on scrolls or even tablets were expensive and rare. Few people owned books and only kings, great scholars, or very wealthy individuals had libraries.

Since books were few, the Bible mostly

**How did
people study
the Bible?**

was studied in schools where the teacher lectured and the student memorized the lesson. Portions of the Bible were also taught aloud by parents to children until they were memorized. In this way, the Bible was handed down from generation to generation.

Jewish leaders and Rabbis made it a custom to read a portion of the Penta-

teuch in the synagogues of ancient Israel during every holiday service and on every Saturday morning and afternoon. A portion was also read at worship on Monday and Thursday mornings. The portions were so arranged that over a fixed period of time, the entire Pentateuch was read and the cycle was repeated regularly. Sections from the Prophets were also read at the same time.

We have no exact knowledge when each

**When was the Bible
written down?**

book of the Bible was actually written down.

Since the prophets delivered their fiery addresses whenever they were moved by God's spirit to do so, their prophecies may not have been recorded until long after they had been delivered. We know that Jeremiah had his own personal scribe, and it is possible that the other prophets had scribes as well. But it is most probable that the words of the prophets were taught and studied orally long before they were written down.

Even before the Bible was written down, every word of its books was treasured by the Jews and no changes were permitted in the text. The Bible to them was a holy book, inspired by God. The Jews prevented any additions or deletions from the original books of the Bible. A uniform text of the Bible has remained with us until this very day.

Since the prophets delivered their fiery

**When was the
Bible "sealed"?**

prose at different times, David coming after Moses, for example, and Isaiah coming after David,

we should ask at which point the Bible was considered formally closed with no further books admitted to the Holy Scriptures.

There are different opinions about this question. Some say that the Old Testament was sealed and no further books admitted at the end of the fifth century, B.C. Others say that this took place several centuries later. The process of closing the Old Testament to further admission was done by the great Jewish sages and scholars of the Holy Land. This process is called *canonization*, which means "setting the standard" by which a book was considered holy enough to be included in the Bible. Books other than those in the *canon* were also nominated to be included but they were rejected for various reasons and not considered holy. Those books that were excluded from the Canon and were put aside are called the *Apocrypha*, from a Greek word meaning "hidden."

The order in which the books appear in the Bible and their chapter divisions were also established at the time of canonization. The Jewish Bible and the Christian Bibles, which include the New Testament, vary in the arrangement of some of the books. Several of the books of the Apocrypha are also included in the Christian Canon but not in the Jewish Canon.

As we have pointed out, the Bible was originally written almost completely in Hebrew. As the fame of the Bible spread, it was translated into other languages so that it could be known by people who did not understand Hebrew. The first of these translations is the Greek.

It is told that Ptolemy II, who ruled over Egypt during the third century, B.C., was a great lover of books. When he heard about the Pentateuch, he invited a number of learned men to come from Jerusalem to translate the Holy Book into Greek, which was the language of scholars in his country at that time. The scholars were placed in different rooms and ordered to work separately. Ptolemy thought that he would then compare the results and choose the best translations. However, when the work was completed, Ptolemy was amazed to find that all the translations were identical. The translation made into Greek by the learned men is known as the *Septuagint*. The name comes from a Latin word meaning "seventy" and refers to the actual number of translators. Many years after Ptolemy lived, the rest of the Bible was also translated into Greek.

The Septuagint is considered the most important of all Bible translations

What was the Septuagint?



Monk in the Middle Ages writing Bible by hand.

because Greek was at that time a language known by the entire Mediterranean world. Through this language the Bible became available to all of Europe and through Europe to all of the world. It is possible to say that the Greek translation of the Bible insured its lasting survival among all mankind.

A number of Greek translations fol-

What was the Hexapla?

lowed the Septuagint, each one a little different in style and wording. In the beginning of the third century, A.D., Origen, one of the Church Fathers, produced a most interesting edition of the Old Testament. It contained six parallel columns on each page. In the first column was the original Hebrew text. Next to the Hebrew was a Greek transliteration. (Transliteration means that one language is written in the alphabet of another language; in this case the Hebrew Bible was written in Greek letters.) By using the transliteration, anybody who could read the

Greek alphabet and who understood the Hebrew language but was unable to read it, could still study the Bible in its original form. In the other columns of the edition were the translation of the Septuagint and three other Greek translations.

This collection was called the *Hexapla*, which means "a book of six columns." Only fragments of this book are to be found today.

Shortly after Origen collected the *Hexapla*, another Church

What is the Vulgate?

Father, Jerome, began to study Hebrew in Palestine in order to undertake a new translation. He labored fifteen long years in preparing his great work. Jerome translated the Old and New Testaments, using the Hebrew original and the Greek translations, into Latin. This book, which was later accepted by the Church as the only authentic Latin translation, is known as the *Vulgate*.

All in all, from the third to the thirteenth century, translations were completed in the Coptic, Gothic, Armenian, Ethiopic, Georgian, Arabic, Spanish, Judeo-German, Syrian and Persian languages. But the official translation used in Christian Europe during this time was the *Vulgate* of Jerome. The Byzantine Empire in the East used the Greek translation.

For approximately 1700 years from the

What was the first book to be printed?

time of the writing of the *Septuagint*, translations of the Bible, like all books, were written by hand. They were owned mostly by wealthy noblemen, a few



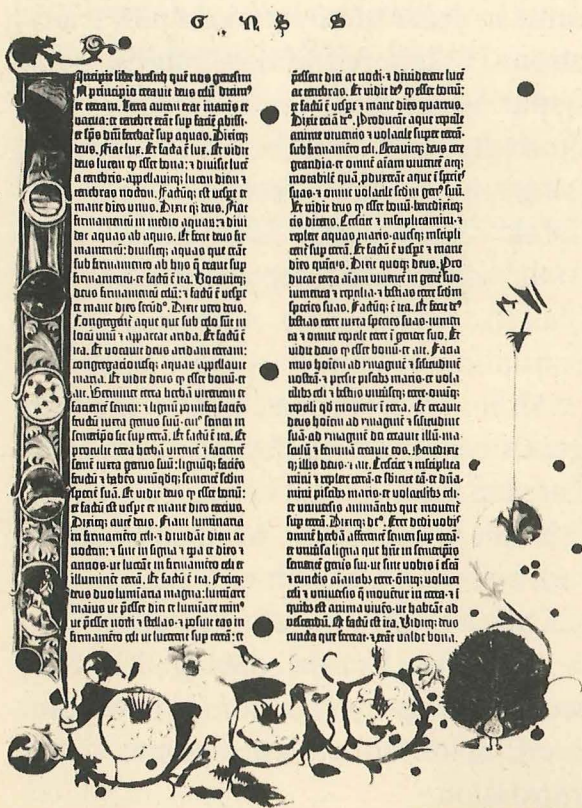
fortunate scholars, and some Princes of the Church. When Johannes Gutenberg, the German printer, invented the printing press with movable type in the middle of the 15th century, wider distribution became possible. In fact, one of the first books ever printed on the new press was an edition of the *Vulgate*, now known as the *Gutenberg Bible*.

Early printing was a difficult matter. Special paper had to be manufactured and a specific kind of ink prepared. The machinery of the new press was also very cumbersome and the type had to be made and set by hand. The Guten-

berg Bible, therefore, took almost six years to print. The book consisted of 1282 pages, and was printed in two columns on each page. The pages were sixteen inches high and eleven and one half inches wide. After the pages were printed and had dried, they were sent to an artist who illuminated the letters and wrote in the rubrics.

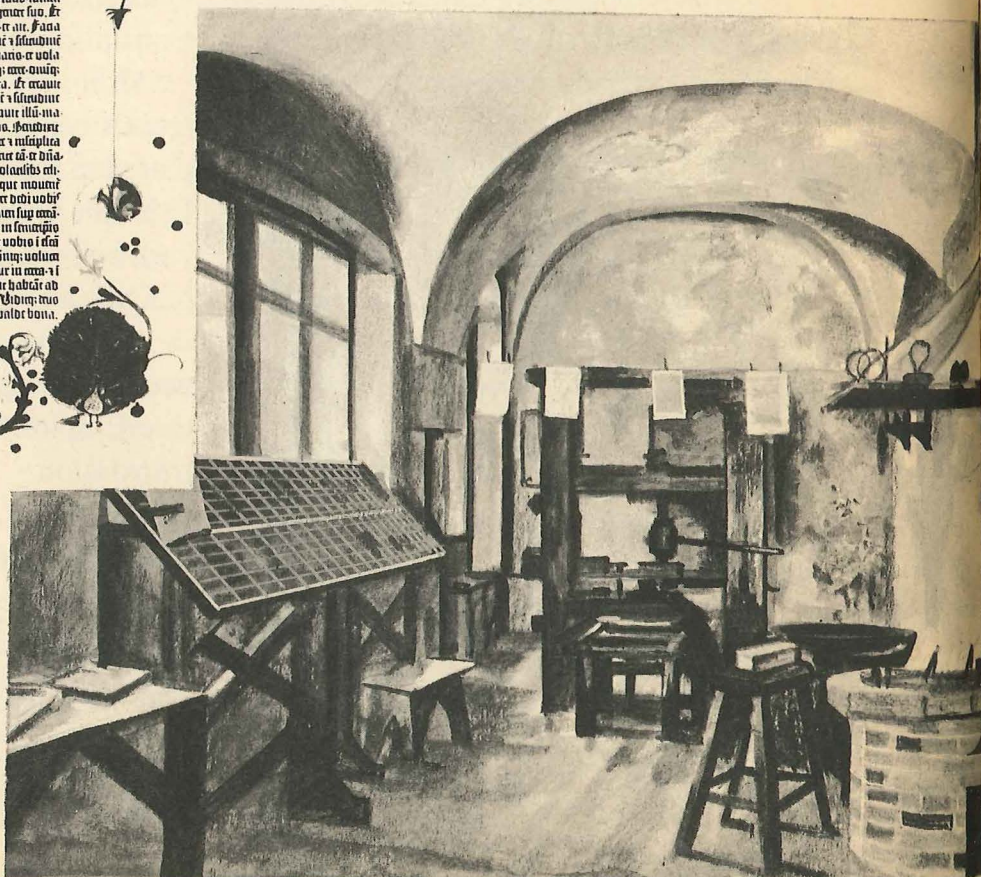
An illuminated letter is a capital letter at the beginning of a chapter or paragraph which is drawn in a special design and filled in with paint or colored ink. A rubric is the heading that appears at the top of a chapter or a paragraph explaining the contents of that section.

When the artist had finished his work, the pages were bound together between leather or cloth covers. Only two or three hundred copies of the Gutenberg Bible were printed. Forty-seven of these first books ever printed are still in existence.



Facsimile page of the Gutenberg Bible, the first printed version of the scriptures.

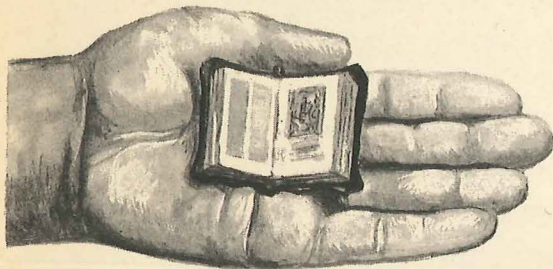
Reconstruction of Gutenberg's workshop in the Museum in Mainz, Germany.



From the thirteenth century on, translations of the complete Bible into the languages of Western Europe began to increase.

What was the special importance of Martin Luther's translation of the Old and New Testament?

In the middle of that century, a French translation appeared and several English translations followed. Then, Martin Luther, a German priest who started a reform movement that became the basis of Protestantism, translated the New Testament in 1522 and finished the translation of the Old Testament into German in 1534. This work proved to be very popular and as Lutheranism



One of the smallest bibles in the world, printed in 1901 in Scotland, measures without cover $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $1\frac{3}{4}$ ", is $\frac{7}{16}$ " thick, and contains 876 pages. It is illustrated and perfectly readable with a magnifying glass.

spread beyond Germany, Luther's Bible became the basis of the translations used in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Holland.

The Old and New Testaments were not translated into English until 1535, when Miles Coverdale, an Augustinian friar, prepared the translation. It was strongly influenced by Luther's translation.

The Roman Catholic Church was also engaged in making an English

What were the English translations? translated into English until 1535, when Miles Coverdale, an Augustinian friar, prepared the translation.



King James receives the first copy of the "authorized" translation of the Bible.

translation. The members of the Catholic College in France were assigned to this task and in 1582 the New Testament was translated and in 1609 the entire Bible was finished. It is called the *Douai*, or *Douay Bible*, because it was completed in Douai, France.

The most famous Protestant translation into English, known as the *King James* or "Authorized Version," was published in 1611. It is called The King James Version because King James I of England ordered the translation. He called fifty-four learned men together, much as Ptolemy had assembled the scholars who prepared the Septuagint, to perfect the English translation of the Old and New Testaments. The result of their work was accepted in England as the Bible to be used by the entire country. For this reason it is called "authorized" or the official translation.



Excavated ruins of Qumran, Jordan, on the Dead Sea, the home of a pre-Christian Jewish sect, near which the famous Dead Sea Scrolls were found.



Since the Douai and King James Versions of the Bible, many more modern English translations have appeared. At least some parts of the Scriptures are also available in more than one thousand other languages as we indicated earlier. In short, the Old and New Testaments of the Bible are known throughout the world and all men enjoy it and are inspired by its time honored message.

Despite extreme care and conscientiousness, some differences have appeared in the various language translations of these books. This is a result of the curious chain of translations from the original Hebrew Bible. A Bible in one of the African languages, for example, may have been translated from a modern English version of the Bible which was based on the King James or Douai Bible. Both of these, in

What differences appear in translations?

turn, are based, in whole or in part, on the Vulgate and on other translations. The Vulgate is based on the Septuagint and the Septuagint on the Hebrew.

A final translation in an African language, then, might have gone through not one translation, but through many. If every translation is just a shade different from the previous one, there may be a great difference between the original Hebrew and the final African version.

While some different words and even different sentences and thoughts do appear in the various versions, the fundamental Biblical teaching of love of God and love of man is clearly expressed throughout each and every translation.

The earliest known Hebrew manuscript of the Bible that we had in our possession prior to 1947, when the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, dates from the

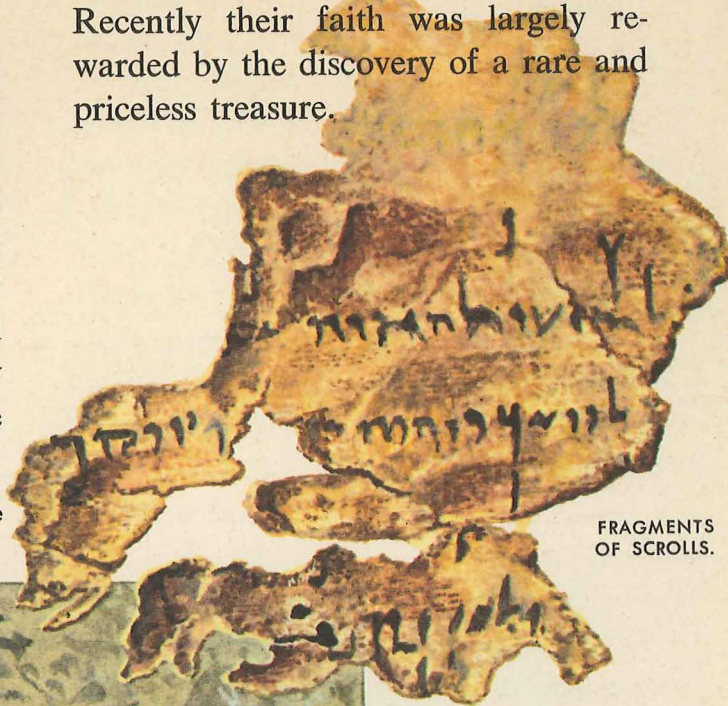
What is one of the earliest known manuscripts of the Bible?

ninth century A.D. It is a copy of the authorized or official Hebrew text that was established when the Old Testament was canonized. Often the question arises that if frequent translations may have caused changes in the text, may not this ancient text be faulty, too? Or, in other words, how do we know that what we believe to be the true words of the Bible have not also been changed?

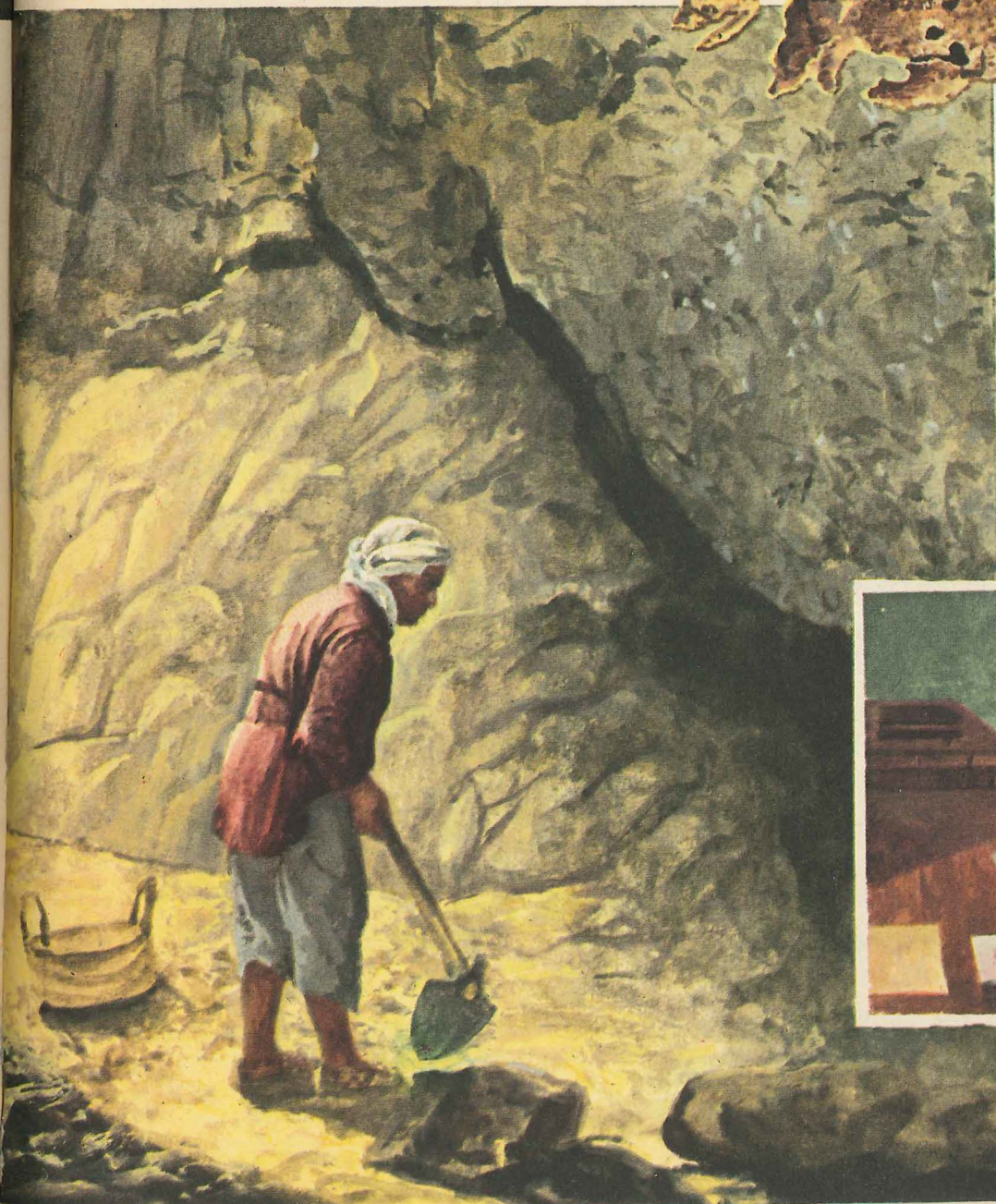
Believers in the Bible have never had any doubts about its authenticity. They believe that the loving and holy care

given to the Bible by the ancient scholars and sages protected it against any change, even in the smallest detail. Recently their faith was largely rewarded by the discovery of a rare and priceless treasure.

Below are the caves where the important scrolls were accidentally discovered by Arab shepherd boys.



FRAGMENTS OF SCROLLS.



Scholars from all over the world employ all available knowledge, patience and skill to put the fragments of the scrolls together. It seems like a big mystery jig-saw puzzle.



In 1947, a number of crumbling clay jars were accidentally unearthed in some caves near the Dead Sea, a picturesque area of Biblical Israel. Bulky objects covered with a soft linen-like material coated with wax or pitch were found stored in these jars. When the material was peeled away, some rolled up pieces of coarse animal hides were revealed. They were sewn together into scrolls and were marked with strange writing.

The scrolls soon came into the possession of outstanding archaeologists in the new State of Israel and in Jordan. They recognized the writing to be ancient Hebrew. Immediately, they began to examine the delicate scrolls, softening the leather slowly and tenderly, so that they could unroll them without cracking or crumbling. Then the archaeologists began to decipher and study what was written on the sheets.

The greatest Biblical scholars in the world were called to join in the study of the scrolls. They applied a variety of tests to determine the period in which the scrolls were written. They even used the most modern of all techniques, the "Carbon 14" test. After many years of study, most of the scholars concluded that the Dead Sea Scrolls, as the find was called, were about 2000 years old! It was almost a miracle that they had survived for this length of time.



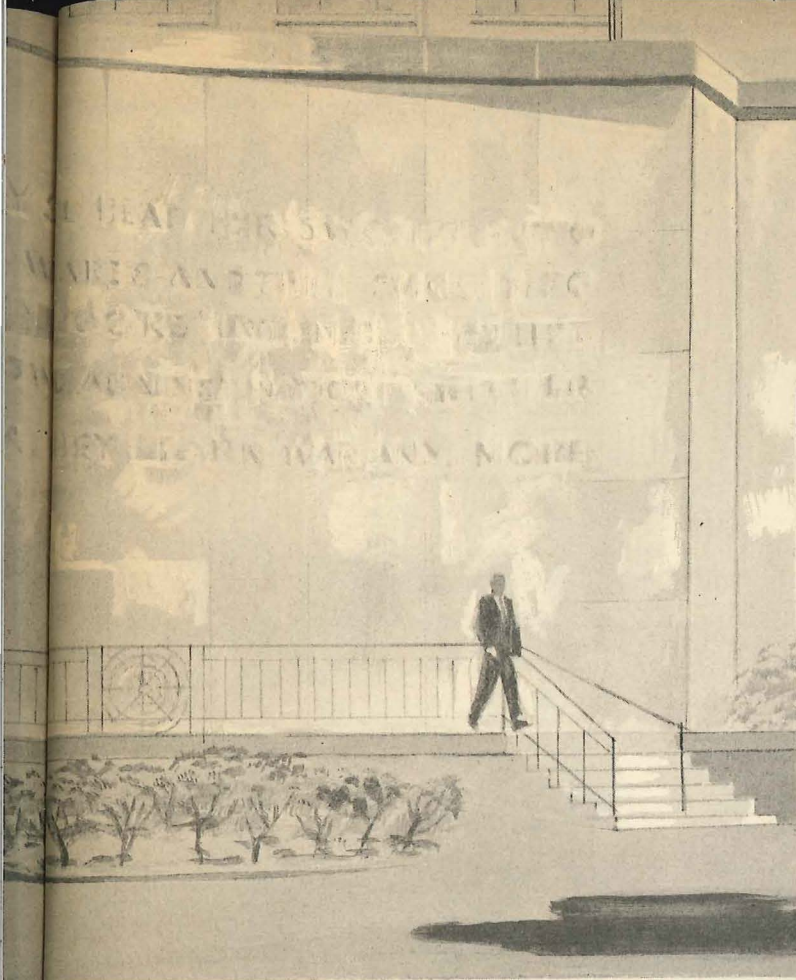
FINDS FROM QUMRAN



The discovery is of great importance because if the Dead Sea Scrolls are actually 2000 years old, they were

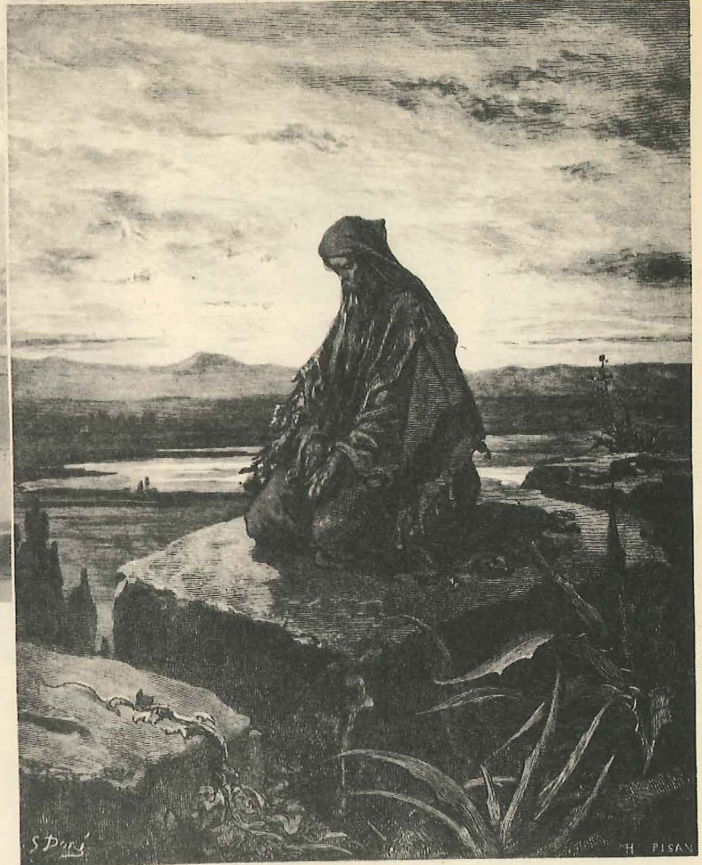
written very close to the time when the canon of the Hebrew Bible was established. The discovery is even more exciting when we learn that two of the scrolls contain all of the sixty-six chapters of the Book of Isaiah. This makes the scrolls of the Book of Isaiah the oldest complete book of the Bible in existence today!

Bible scholars now had an excellent opportunity to compare the text of the Book of Isaiah we have today with the ancient text of the Book of Isaiah found among the Dead Sea Scrolls. If the two versions had turned out to be very different then we could have known that



Isaiah's words are inscribed on one of the walls of United Nations Plaza in New York.

Doré's engraving showing the prophet Isaiah in meditation.



our present Bible is not the same as that used in olden days. But they turned out to be almost exactly alike, proving that the text of the Book of Isaiah has not changed at all through the centuries. Scholars, therefore, believe that while a comparison has been made with only one book of the Bible, its almost identical language is convincing enough to indicate that all the other books that have been guarded so carefully are also correct and true versions of the Bible.

Man's faith throughout the ages has accepted the Bible as the truth. Modern discoveries seem to support this belief as well. Perhaps some day when all mankind accepts the teachings of the Bible, we will enjoy the age of universal peace

What prophecy is the hope of all mankind?

which the Prophets foresaw, and which is expressed so grandly by Isaiah. This verse is inscribed on the wall of the United Nations Plaza in New York City, and engraved in the hopes of all mankind.

*"They shall beat their swords into plowshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks:
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war any more."*

**THE TORAH, THE
5 BOOKS OF MOSES**

1963

REVISED STANDARD

1952

ALGONQUIN BIBLE

1663



GENEVA BIBLE

1560



GUTENBERG

1456



KING JAMES

1611



GREAT BIBLE

1539



COVERDALE

1535

WYCLIFFE'S BIBLE

A.D. 1382



VULGATE

A.D. 405

SEPTUAGINT

250-50 B.C.

CONFRATERNITY

1941-1952



DOUAI BIBLE

1582-1609



SEPTUAGINT: First translation from Hebrew to Greek.

VULGATE: Catholic standard, Latin translation.

WYCLIFFE'S BIBLE: First English translation of New Testament.

COVERDALE: First complete English translation printed.

GREAT BIBLE: First church-authorized English translation.

KING JAMES VERSION: Most famous English Bible.

REVISED STANDARD VERSION: Newest U.S. Protestant Bible.

THE TORAH, THE 5 BOOKS OF MOSES: A new translation of the Holy Scriptures according to the Masoretic Text by the Jewish Publication Society of America.

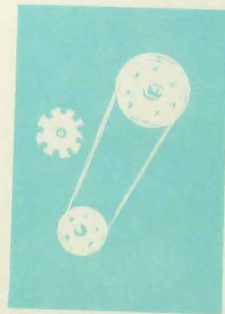
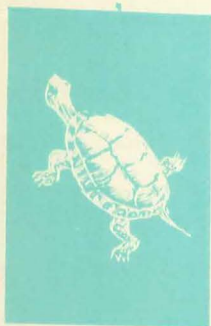
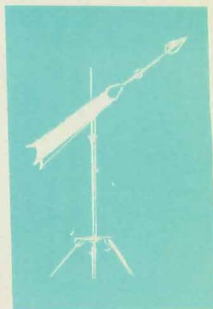
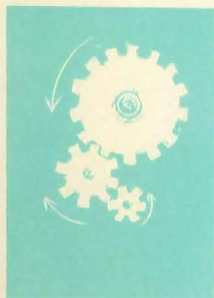
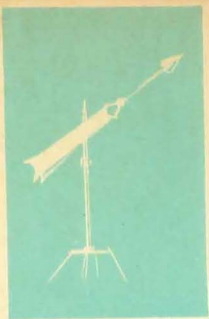
GUTENBERG: First printed Bible.

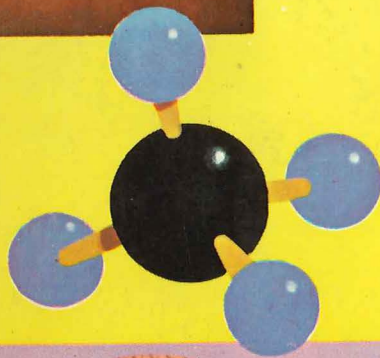
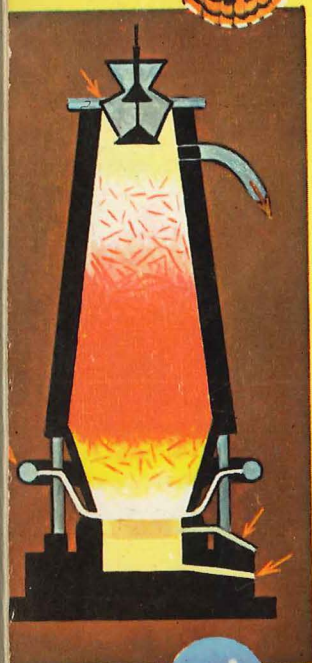
GENEVA BIBLE: Bible brought to America by Pilgrims.

ALGONQUIN BIBLE: First complete Bible printed in America.

DOUAI BIBLE: English renditions for Catholics of New and Old Testaments.

CONFRATERNITY: First U. S. Catholic version of New Testament and eight books of Old Testament.





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